



Rainforest Alliance Guide for the Sustainable Agriculture Standard

Implementation and evaluation of criteria requirements

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Version 1.2

The Rainforest Alliance works to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable livelihoods by transforming land-use practices, business practices, and consumer behavior.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE GUIDE

The Guide was designed for a technical audience and it is assumed that its users are familiar with the basic concepts of farm management systems and sustainable agriculture. Farms, group administrators and other stakeholders will find in this tool accurate information to clarify their understanding on the implementation of the 2017 Standard, and recommendations of best practices towards sustainability. This tool is not designed to be used as a checklist, nor it has all the information necessary to understand the totality of the certification scheme.

Recommendations offered in this tool are not binding nor mandatory.

CONTENTS

The Guide contents are organized by Principles and Criteria, matching the 2017 Standard structure.

The approach of the requirements in each criterion is developed in four main components:

- a) The exact text of each criterion, as it appears in the 2017 Standard
- b) The objective of the criterion.
- c) The general guidance, which offers recommendations for the implementation of the criterion requirements and some insight on which elements can be considered as evidence of compliance.
- d) The specific guidance (when applicable): which offers recommendations for the implementation and evaluation of the criterion requirements, according to the type of operator: smallholders, group administrators and plantations.

In some cases, the “General Guidance” of each criterion includes additional references to internal and external documents, to offer further information and support actions taken towards certification and sustainability.

The Guide also contains the following annexes to facilities its lecture:

1. Terms & Definitions: as defined in the 2017 Standard, taking into account that each of them carry a specific definition within the system and that they are considered as binding elements of the criteria.
2. Compensation for announced and unannounced minor destruction of natural ecosystems (as defined in the 2017 Certification Rules).
3. Child labor remediation (as defined in the 2017 Certification Rules).

HOW TO USE THE GUIDE

The Guide was designed as a complementary tool to understand the 2017 Standard requirements. Therefore, we recommend you to read the following documents to get a better understanding of the system, and then consult The Guide for further information on how does the Standard can be implemented/evaluated.

1. 2017 Certification Rules.
2. 2017 Sustainable Agriculture Standard.
3. 2017 Transition Rules.

The guide can also be used:

- As a base to develop further training materials: Certification Bodies or technical assistance providers can adapt this tools to develop training tools with specific examples that take into account the characteristics of their regions and the Standard scope.
- For audit/activities planning: technical teams (auditors and advisers) can analyze and study The Guide to plan for audit or consulting processes.
- For farm management planning: as a source to consult best practices for the implementation of the 2017 Standard.

When using the Guide, please consider the following graphic elements:

Criterion Level:

- Critical
- Continuous improvement-Level C
- Continuous improvement-Level B
- Continuous improvement-Level A

Document navigation tools:
Allow to navigate between the document different sections with just a click

Criterion details:

- ✳ Zero tolerance criterion
- 📄 Local legislation may apply

Specific Guidance:

- 👤 Smallholders
- 👥 Group administrators
- 🚜 Plantations

CRITERION #

Production activities do not degrade any protected area.

Objective Avoid degradation of protected areas within and in the proximity of the farm's or group administrator's properties.

General Guidance

- Farms identify any protected areas within or in the proximity of the farm limits, and their protection categories.
- All practices within the production systems comply with applicable law and management plans for protected areas and their adjacent zones, as defined by the respective local authority for the conservation and management of the protected area.
- Actions to conserve protected areas include (but are not limited to):
 - no mining and no soil removal;
 - no dumping of solid waste or untreated wastewater;
 - no intentional introduction of invasive plant species;
 - no harvest of fish, wildlife, or plants in a manner or quantity that exceeds the regenerative capacity of such species;
 - no cattle grazing except as specified under sustainable management;
 - no construction of impoundments, stream channelization, adding fill, or changing the depth or direction of flow of a water body;
 - no drainage or drying of water bodies or wetlands through excessive water withdrawal or other means;
 - no pollution of water bodies or wetlands that significantly alters their chemistry or species composition;
 - and no application of herbicides, pesticides, or fire.

Specific Guidance

- 👤 Smallholders are aware of any protected area within or in the proximity of the farm and avoid its degradation.
- 👥 Group administrators inform group members or workers about the meaning of no degradation in or around protected areas; and ensure the conservation of such areas.
- 👤 Farm management informs the workers about the meaning of no degradation in or around protected areas, and implements actions in this regard.

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PRINCIPLE 1:
**EFFECTIVE PLANNING &
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

2017 Sustainable Agriculture Standard

CRITICAL

CRITERION 1.1

A farm baseline assessment is conducted and documented. The assessment is reviewed and updated at least once per year. The assessment includes:

- A farm map indicating the location of each production plot, roads, buildings, other infrastructure, natural ecosystems, and abutting land uses including protected areas;
- A boundary delineation of the certificate’s geographic extent;
- Information on each production plot, including type of crop or pasture, crop or pasture varieties and crop or herd density, crop age or renovation stage for perennial crops and rotation cycle for annual crops; and production level.
- A tabulation of the total farm area, total production area, and total area of natural ecosystems.

Objective Create the basis for farm planning and sustainable practices defined by this standard within the framework of adaptive management.

- General Guidance**
- The *production level* of a farm is the amount of product that is produced in a specific area of land during a specific timeframe (e.g. kilograms per hectare).
 - *Crop age* refers to the length of time since each crop was planted. The planting date of production plots is accepted as evidence of the crop age.
 - If different plots or areas of the farm have been planted in different times, for the purpose of ‘renovating’ the planting material, this information is also recorded.
 - Digital maps are acceptable.

Specific Guidance



- Smallholders inform the group administrator when there are changes in the information of their farms, including foreseen fluctuations of the productivity and the factors associated with these.
- Smallholders are able to understand and to use the maps.
- A map may be a farm sketch.



- Maps may be prepared for each individual farm or showing multiple farms.
- The group administrator keeps a database with this information for all member farms.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 1.2

Records are maintained and calculation methods are described that demonstrate that the total volume of certified product sold does not exceed the volume harvested from the farm or received from other certified farms. Records are maintained to demonstrate that only products from certified farms are claimed as certified.

Objective Ensure the integrity of the certified product at the production level and ensure the certified organization does not sell more product than the product it harvested.

General Guidance

- Volumes of certified and non-certified products harvested and sold, as well as volumes of products purchased and in stock are registered and monitored;
- Yield estimation methods are documented and control mechanisms are in place to ensure that yield estimates are accurate;
- Farm documents any difference between the total volume harvested and the total volume approved by the certificate;
- Farm keep records of the mitigation actions they applied in the case of accidental mixing of certified product with non-certified product.
- The total volume of incoming certified product (harvested or purchased) do not exceed the volume of the product leaving the organization, according to the receipts, invoices or other types of related records.

Specific Guidance



- Smallholders keep records of the volume of product they have harvested and delivered to the group administrator, as well as of the product they have sold or delivered to third parties.
- When applicable, these records match with those of the payments to workers harvesting the product.
- Group members keep records of the product they bought from other certified or non-certified farms, when applicable.



The group administrator:

- Verifies that group members do not replace all or part of their production to be sold with certified claims with product coming from non-certified farms;
- Has systems in place to avoid overselling of certified product.
- Implements corrective actions for the case that non-certified product was claimed as certified product and have records of all corrective actions implemented.
- Establishes a sanctioning system that includes penalties to those group members who deliberately sell product from non-certified farms with certified claims;



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 1.3

The products harvested, received, processed, mixed, stored, packed, labeled or handled in the farm's or group administrator's facilities preserve the products' integrity in accordance with their claim. Product receipt from certified, multi-certified and non-certified farms is registered with its origin, date, and product type and volume. If certified, multi-certified and non-certified products are handled together, all products with certified claims can be identified.

Objective Protect the integrity of certified product at the production level and ensure its traceability.

- General Guidance**
- The personnel involved with the handling and processing of certified products has been trained about how to preserve the products integrity.
 - Certified products handled in the organization's facilities during reception, processing, mixing, storing, packaging, delivery, transport and release are kept separated, either by physical segregation or in time, to preserve the product's integrity in accordance to the claim.
 - The certified product can be visually identified at any stage.
 - There are procedures and records for controlling the reception, processing, mixing, storing, packaging, labeling, delivery, transport and resale of products coming from certified farms.
 - The farm or group administrator enter into an agreement with any contractor to which processing, storing, packaging, and /or labeling is outsourced about compliance of the contractor with the Rainforest Alliance Chain of Custody Policy.
 - When applicable, conversion factors or processing ratios are documented and maintained to preserve the products' integrity in accordance with its claim.
 - When applicable, transaction certificates are requested and kept on record.

Specific Guidance



- Smallholders that own or manage land plots that are out of the audit scope are able to keep the certified and the non-certified product separated.

CRITICAL

CRITERION 1.4



An independent environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) is conducted prior to land conversion or the development or expansion of farm infrastructure when required by applicable law or when these proposed changes will exceed Rainforest Alliance ESIA parameters. The ESIA includes written plans and procedures for minimizing and mitigating any negative impacts and enhancing positive impacts. The farm management and group administrator implements and monitors ESIA plans during the installation and operation phases of the new development.

Objective Ensure that infrastructure, new production lots or changes in crop production do not cause a negative impact on the environment and neighboring rural communities, through a technical evaluation.

General Guidance

- The ESIA is conducted in accordance with applicable laws; or, in their absence, based on technically recognized methods. It may address topics such as: biodiversity, water, ecosystem services, soils, air, waste, employment, labor rights, natural resources use rights, HCV areas, tenure and conflicts, food security, climate change and other possible impacts on local communities.
- The Rainforest Alliance Guide for environmental and social impact assessment (RA-G-SP-1-V1) provides further guidance on how to conduct an ESIA for those cases where there is no specific methodology to follow.
- The ESIA describes actions for avoiding, reducing or mitigating negative impacts, that are incorporated into the farm management plan.
- There is a person responsible for the monitoring and follow up of the evaluation process.
- Based on criterion 4.20, the ESIA integrates a process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent with local communities to ensure that there is full consent and fair compensation for any loss of access to land or resources [*when applicable*].
- The ESIA is made by a third part, and never carried out by the organization's personnel to ensure it is independent and objectivity.
- Land conversion: A change in land use from non-cropped areas to annual or perennial crop agriculture or cattle production areas. A change in land use from one crop to another crop, from pasture to cropland, or from cropland to pasture is not considered a land conversion unless it also entails land consolidation.
- Land consolidation in this context refers to a planned readjustment and rearrangement of land parcels and their ownership, that is usually applied to form larger and more rational land holdings.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 1.5

The farm management and group administrator document and implement mechanisms for the selection, monitoring, and management of service providers to ensure that service providers comply with applicable critical criteria of this standard for work conducted within the certification scope. When the service provider processes, stores, packages, and/or labels products on behalf of a farm or group administrator, the service provider holds an active Chain of Custody Certificate.

Objective Select service providers with high environmental and social awareness and ensure their compliance with the applicable Critical Criteria for activities they carry out on the certified operation's behalf.

**General
Guidance**

- Service providers selection takes into account their ability to comply with the Standard's applicable Critical Criteria; and when hired, this is included as part of their contracts.
- The farm management or group administrator have mechanisms in place to verify that their contracted service providers comply with the applicable Critical Criteria. Service providers' compliance is regularly monitored and analyzed by the farm or group administrator, according to the frequency of service;
- Activities may include: hiring of workers for pesticide application, harvest, infrastructure construction and maintenance, security services, cleaning and cooking; waste treatment or disposal services; and providing worker housing in the name of the organization.
- Service provider: Organizations, businesses, individuals or their subcontractors who carry out activities on behalf of the farm or group administrator, whether these activities take place on or off the subject farm(s), such as hiring of workers on the farm, pesticide application, waste treatment or disposal, transport of products or workers, and providing worker housing in the name of the farm or group administrator. Service providers include those providers furnishing the farm or group administrator with fuelwood, timber, or any product originating from local natural ecosystems for industrial processes. However, providers of other types of goods or inputs to the farm are not considered service providers.
- In the case of fuelwood providers, they will only be considered when fuelwood is used in large quantities for industrial processes such as coffee mills or tea dryers, with an emphasis on the environmental impact that extraction can represent to local natural ecosystems. Those fuelwood suppliers of small volumes or those who sell it for cooking or heating of family groups on an individual basis are exempt from this definition.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 1.6

The farm management and group administrator demonstrate commitment to certification and to complying with this standard:

- a) Resources are dedicated and responsible personnel is designated to the development and implementation of social and environmental management plans;
- b) Applicable laws are identified within the scope of this standard, systems for compliance are maintained and written affirmations of this compliance are provided;
- c) Regular assessments are conducted to measure compliance with this standard;
- d) Social and environmental management plans are adjusted accordingly.

Objective Provide management support and enable the dedication of resources to the management system for compliance with the Sustainable Agriculture Standard criteria and applicable law.

- General Guidance**
- Farms demonstrate a general understanding of applicable laws, a sustainable agriculture management plan, its components and the principal activities for carrying out its programs.
 - Applicable laws are identified and the management is able to demonstrate actions for their compliance. Mechanisms for documenting applicable laws may consists but are not restricted to lists, tables, charts or compendiums.
 - In those cases where the requirements of applicable law are different than the Standard's, the strictest set of rules apply. Exceptional cases:
 - whenever the applicable law and Standard requirements are contradictory, the first one apply to avoid potential legal conflicts.
 - when there are significant limitations that prevent full compliance with applicable law, farms present evidence that they have done everything within their reach to comply with applicable law.
 - when there is a written wage agreement between the administration, trade unions and workers that does not reach the legal minimum; and such agreements are recognized by the local/national government (see Critical Criterion 4.5).
 - There is a specific budget for the farm management plan and its programs and activities, and there is personnel in charge of the programs and activities of the plan, and they can be hold accountable for the plan's outcomes. Such personnel is provided with tools, equipment, materials and support to allow them to achieve the results within the established timelines.
 - Workers confirm that they have sufficient time and resources to execute the different social and environmental management programs and activities.
 - Farms establish the frequency and mechanisms to check compliance with Standard and results are incorporated in management systems and processes (see Criterion 1.7).

LEVEL C

CRITERION 1.7

The farm management and group administrator develop and update regularly a farm management plan to optimize productivity, input use efficiency, and comply with this standard. The plan includes:

- a) Soil health and erosion;
- b) Water management (including estimated use of irrigation water);
- c) Pests and diseases;
- d) Management of inputs (including estimated use of fertilizer and pesticide);
- e) Planting materials;
- f) Climate change;
- g) Extreme weather events;
- h) Estimated production volumes and desired product quality of crops or cattle production covered by the certificate scope and for the next production cycle;
- i) Labor;
- j) Identification of agricultural practices to optimize productivity and input use efficiency.

Objective Optimize productivity and input use.

- General Guidance**
- The plan has realistic goals and timelines, based on technical criteria relating to the crop or cattle, as well as the organization's financial capacity and the physical and biological characteristics of the area where it is located; and includes information relating to the topics described in the criterion, and an analysis of how these factors may affect the farm's productivity and compliance with the Standard.
 - Extreme weather events may include floods, droughts, hurricanes, tsunamis and strong winds, among others.
 - *Planting material* refers to the type of material used to establish a field or replace the plants of certain crop.
 - Recommendation is for farm management to update the plan annually; and group administrators of smallholder groups to update at least every 3 years an individual or collective plan for its smallholder members.

Specific Guidance



- The group administrator ensures all smallholders receive a coaching visit from an agronomist or technician.
- Management plan includes recommendations and actions for member farms.
- Group administrator decides whether to develop a plan for each farm or a general plan for the members, according to the group composition and production conditions. If plan is general for all members, group administrator demonstrate that the plan recommendations are adapted according to the characteristics of the member farms.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 1.8

The farm management and group administrator develop and implement a training plan to train workers on the competencies required to carry out their work and to comply with this standard.

Objective Train all workers for the implementation of the standards and a good work performance.

- General Guidance**
- Farms can demonstrate that it has carried out an analysis of the training needs.
 - Farms can demonstrate that trainings carried out are according to the plan.
 - Workers demonstrate they are capable of carrying out the activities under responsibility following the instructions and guidelines provided during the training sessions.
 - Implementation of the plan can be checked through interviews and other baseline auditing techniques (“triangulation”).

LEVEL C

CRITERION 1.9

The farm management and group administrator analyze at least annually records on farm inputs and production to evaluate the achievement of the farm management plan and adjust the plan for the following year.

Objective Implement adaptive management processes for productivity optimization.

- General Guidance**
- Farms define productivity parameters and indicators to help demonstrate optimization in input use and productivity in general.

Specific Guidance



- The group administrator information analysis covers the different production systems and production conditions, reflecting those of its member farms.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 1.10

The farm management and group administrator keep up-to-date records of inputs and production data for at least the crops or cattle production system covered by the certificate scope. These records include:

- a) Quantity produced and sold as certified during each twelve-month period;
- b) Pesticide applications, including all receipts for purchases, label names of products applied, active ingredient (AI) name, quantity of each formulated product applied, application dates, location (the production plot –see criterion 1.1-), land area over which each product is applied, type of application equipment, and names of pesticide handlers;
- c) Organic fertilizers (types, amount and costs) or mineral fertilizers (amount and costs);
- d) Quantity of water used for irrigation, processing, or cattle production;
- e) For cattle production systems, the quantity, type, and origin of feed produced outside the farm.

Objective Enhance the productivity planning with accurate production data.

- General Guidance**
- Recommendations is to keep records for at least three years, but farm decides based on production systems and cycles.
 - Related to records requested in Criterion 1.2 (volume of product sold) and 1.11 (production inputs such as water and fertilization).

Specific Guidance



Group administrator ensure compliance with this criteria and define the specific responsibilities of each group member; and group members are responsible for the implementation of what has been defined by their Group Administrator.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 1.11

The farm management and group administrator document all training according to training topic, name, organization and title of the trainer, focal crop, number of women and men trained, and an attestation of each worker or group member that s/he participated in the training.

Objective Track all trainings as a basis of analysis for further improving the training plan.

- General Guidance**
- Training records mentions the topics covered during each session; and those topics are related to the Standards criteria and requirements.
 - Attestation of each group member or worker that s/he participated in the training may consist of signature, fingerprint or photograph.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 1.12



The farm management and group administrator support equality and empowerment of women, including participation in training and education and equal access to products and services.

Objective Enable full equity of women for all activities within the production scope.

**General
Guidance**

- Farms identify specific conditions that may require actions to support equality within the farm and group.
- Women – including those in remote areas, those without transportation, or those with limited literacy or language skills – are specifically contacted and encouraged to participate in training and support activities.
- Women are encouraged to work as supervisors, at administrative and management level, and to participate in leadership positions in the group or cooperative board.



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GROUP ADMINISTRATOR MANAGEMENT FOR MEMBER SUPPORT

CRITICAL

CRITERION 1.13

The group administrator keeps enrollment records of all members, including name, contact information, gender, age, location, crops, and production areas.

- Objective** Understand and monitor the composition and needs of group members.
- General Guidance**
- Location of the farm includes its coordinates. Recommendation is that coordinates are taken either in the main farm infrastructure or main entrance.
 - Records may be in digitalized or printed formats.
 - Recommendation is to keep for at least three years, but farms can adjust according to crop cycles and management systems.

CRITICAL

CRITERION 1.14

The group administrator evaluates members' conformance with this standard through internal inspections. The group administrator inspects all new farms before they are included as member farms. All other member farms are inspected frequently enough to monitor the implementation of required improvement actions and to ensure that the entire scope of the standard is evaluated for each member at least once every three years. Member farm visits are scheduled at different times of the year to assess harvesting, farming practices and pesticide applications.

- Objective** Verify the implementation of the Standards criteria on all member farms within the certificate scope.
- General Guidance**
- Internal inspections of member farms are based on the results of external audits, previous internal audits, training events, or other interaction with group members, such as regular or extraordinary meetings or visits to member farms.
 - Results of all monitoring activities are recorded, documented and presented in an organized manner that demonstrates compliance with applicable criteria.
 - Internal inspection monitor implementation of corrective actions.
 - The group administrator decides where to focus the monitoring activities, and those do not necessarily have to cover all the Standard's criteria.
 - Farm visits are programmed at different times of the year to assess harvesting, cultural practices and pesticide applications; and records of such visits are kept.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 1.15

The group administrator documents and implements a group governance structure including decision-making procedures, group member selection criteria, and membership rules. The group governance structure, member selection, and membership rules avoid all forms of discrimination. The group administrator does not restrict its members from associating or affiliating.

i NOT APPLICABLE TO GROUP MODEL “*Multiple-sites under one owner*”

Objective There are clear and transparent rules and processes to manage and govern group membership and decision making.

General Guidance

- The group administrator has a documented governance system, including policies and procedures to manage the selection of members and decisions made by the group.
- Policies and procedures do not include clauses with evident discriminatory elements.
- Potential members are not restricted to group affiliation for discriminatory reasons, and member selection procedures prevent possible discrimination against marginalized groups, such as women, tribes, smallholders or others.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 1.16

The group administrator signs or marks agreements with all group members that include their obligations to conform to this standard and rights to resign or to appeal findings of non-compliance and its resulting sanctions with the group administrator. The group administrator implements sanctions and appeals procedures for non-compliance of group members with applicable criteria of this standard and with the group administrator’s internal requirements.

Objective Ensure that all group members are informed about and accept their obligations and rights.

General Guidance

- There are written agreements that clearly describe the rights and obligations of members. These are marked, with the signature or fingerprint of each member.
- Members know about these agreements and their purpose; are aware of their rights and obligations, and are familiar with the procedures to exercise them.
- The group administrator has a documented sanction procedures, and can provide evidence of where sanctions have been or may be applied.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 1.17

The group administrator develops and implements a plan for training and other support activities based on group members' needs identified through the group governance structure and through the farm planning process. Training activities are appropriate to members' education levels and to the cultural context and are offered to all members. Support activities include facilitating members' access to farm inputs, high quality planting materials, or financial services. The group administrator makes particular efforts to offer training to potentially less-advantaged group members, those in remote areas, and those with limited literacy. Progress, opportunities, and challenges of the group's training plan are analyzed by the group administrator, and results are shared with group members and used to improve training design and implementation.

Objective Support the group's members through training and other activities according to their needs.

General Guidance

- Support activities can consist in any activities that the group administrator implement considering the characteristics and need of the group members.
- Group administrators define criteria to identify less-advantaged members.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 1.18

The group administrator develops, documents, and implements a mechanism for non-discriminatory calculation and distribution of revenues to its group members. The group administrator communicates transparently about the distribution of revenues to its group members.

i NOT APPLICABLE TO GROUP MODEL "*Multiple-sites under one owner*"

Objective Assure there is a transparent mechanism in place to distribute revenues.

General Guidance

- The group's governance defines transparent communication mechanisms and the type of revenues distribution system.
- Group administrator discloses information relating to the distribution of revenues to its members; group members know how revenues are calculated and distributed, are allowed to ask questions to clarify any doubt regarding these procedures and know they have the right to complain.
- There are records of meetings, letters or other means of communication, that the group administrator has used to communicate the policies and procedures for calculating and distributing revenues to its members.
- This criterion does not apply to groups of the "multi-site" type, where a single entity owns or holds one or more farm or site with separate production management system, but under one internal management system.



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LEVEL C

CRITERION 1.19



Where public health or education services are not available, the group administrator develops and implements a plan to provide access to health care and basic education to its members.

Objective Enable professional care in case of illnesses and basic literacy to all group members and their families.

General Guidance

- The group administrator determine whether public health and education services are available to group members within the zone where they are located; if these services are not present, the group administrator has developed a plan with realistic goals, to facilitate the access to these services by group members, or to provide such services itself.
- If the health care and basic education are public, inscription or enrollment and transport are enabled. Other options are: to enable the participation in private health schemes; and to support the visits of nurses, doctors or teachers at farm or group level, and provide the infrastructure for their work.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 1.20

The group administrator facilitates the planning process for its members through training, standardized formats for data collection and analysis, and support to analyze progress and revise farm plans accordingly.

Objective Improve planning skills of group members within the framework of adaptive management.

General Guidance

- The group administrator develops templates in the users' language, and according to the users' academic level.
- The group administrator
- The organization has trained the users on how to use the templates, has helped them resolve any questions, and monitors the proper use of such templates.
- Members know how to fill out the templates that the group administrator has provided, and knows why it is important to do it.



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PRINCIPLE 2:
BIODIVERSITY
CONSERVATION

2017 Sustainable Agriculture Standard

CRITICAL

CRITERION 2.1



High Conservation Value (HCV) areas have not been destroyed from November 1, 2005 onward.

Objective Protect High Conservation Value Areas within the farm and group administrator limits

General Guidance

- Certified organizations holding a valid certificate as of June 30, 2017 are considered to have complied with the no destruction of HCV area types 1, 2, 3 and 4 of 2017 Standard's critical criterion 2.1 by virtue of having complied with critical criterion 2.2 of the 2010 SAN Sustainable Agriculture Standard. Additionally, complaints about destruction of HCV area types 5 and 6 will be verified through an investigation audit.
- Consult more details for HCV evaluation and related certification decision in the *Certification Rules 2017*(RA-R.SP-V1.2)

CRITICAL

CRITERION 2.2



Farms conserve all natural ecosystems and have not destroyed forest or other natural ecosystems in the five-year period prior to the date of initial application for Rainforest Alliance certification or after January 1, 2014, whichever date is earlier.

Objective Protect natural ecosystems, including forests, towards a zero deforestation commitment.

General Guidance

- Producers and workers are informed about the location, conservation and no destruction of natural ecosystems.
- Practices for sustainable management and assisting the recovery of natural ecosystems that previously experienced destruction or degradation, are not considered as destruction of natural ecosystems. Restoration may include [but is not limited to] activities such as planting of native species, removal of non-native species, and active or passive facilitation of natural ecological succession.
- Certified organizations holding a valid certificate as of June 30, 2017 are considered to have complied with the 2017 Standard's critical criterion 2.2 on the conservation of natural ecosystems by virtue of having complied with critical criterion 2.2 of the 2010 SAN Sustainable Agriculture Standard. Regardless of their prior certification status, all certified organizations are required to adhere to the element of critical criterion 2.2 that requires farms to keep conserving all natural ecosystems. See the *Certification Rules 2017* for further details.
- The sections "Compensation for unannounced/announced minor destruction of natural ecosystems" of the *ertification Rules 2017* apply (see Annex 2 of this document).



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 2.3



Production activities do not degrade any protected area.

- Objective** Avoid degradation of protected areas within and in the proximity of the farm's or group administrator's properties.
- General Guidance**
- Farms identify any protected areas within or in the proximity of the farm limits, and their protection categories and management plans.
 - All practices within the production systems comply with applicable law and management plans for protected areas and their adjacent zones as defined by the respective local authority for the conservation and management of the protected area.
 - Activities that degrade protected areas include [but are not limited to]: mining and soil removal; dumping of solid waste or untreated wastewater; intentional introduction of invasive plant and animals; harvest of fish, wildlife, or plants in a manner or quantity that exceeds the regenerative capacity of such species; cattle grazing except as specified under sustainable management; construction of impoundments, stream channelization, adding fill, or changing the depth or direction of flow of a water body; drainage or drying of water bodies or wetlands through excessive water withdrawal or other means; pollution of water bodies or wetlands that significantly alters their chemistry or species composition; and application of herbicides, pesticides, or fire.
 - Possible exceptions for conducting certain activities described above can be granted if there are areas within the protected area declared as low-impact agriculture management zones. In such cases, organizations can be certified if in compliance with the management guidelines of the protected area management plan corresponding to the zone where the farm is located. In all cases, the criteria and additional policies on pesticides apply.

Specific Guidance



Smallholders are aware of any protected area within or in the proximity of the farm and avoid its degradation.



Group administrators inform group members or workers about the meaning of no degradation in or around protected areas; and ensure the conservation of such areas.



Farm management informs the workers about the meaning of no degradation in or around protected areas, and implements actions in this regard.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 2.4



Animals that are endangered or protected are never hunted or killed. Animals are not hunted on the farm, with the following exceptions:

- a) Smallholders may hunt non-endangered animals for non-commercial use only; and
- b) Vertebrate pest wildlife may be hunted only in accordance with the farm's integrated pest management (IPM) plan, and only as a measure of last resort. Control of rodents follows Rainforest Alliance rodenticide risk management requirements.
- c) Explosives or toxic substances are never used for hunting, fishing, or control of wildlife pests.

Objective Prohibit hunting of wild animals within the certified operations' properties, with the exception of non-endangered species that are considered a pest for the crop or production systems.

General Guidance

- Workers, families, member farms, neighbors or external people are aware of the farm's no-hunting policies.
- If farms can be accessed by external people through their borders or public roads, the prohibition of hunting is explicitly signaled in these areas.
- If farm properties are vulnerable to poaching (illegal hunting), farm takes actions to prevent it. Actions can include signals, fences and surveillance systems.
- Smallholders may hunt non-endangered species, for non-commercial purposes, only within the limits of their properties.
- Rainforest Alliance rodenticide risk management requirements:
 - 1) Rodenticide traps are only used, if rodent monitoring demonstrates that mechanic control methods are not effective;
 - 2) Only formulated rodenticide baited traps are used.
 - 3) Signs of rodent activity (droppings, tracks, gnaw marks, burrows) are monitored and the results recorded. Traps are inspected daily and bait stations and installations weekly;
 - 4) Bait stations are tamper-resistant, anchored, and constructed in such a manner and size as to permit only the entrance of rodents;
 - 5) Food sources attracting rodents and debris are eliminated;
 - 6) Rodent carcasses are handled with gloves and buried in locations that do not pose risk to human health or water contamination;
 - 7) Bait stations are removed and the amount of stations diminished when there are no longer signs of rodent feeding or there is evidence of use by non-target wildlife.



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NATIVE VEGETATION

LEVEL C

CRITERION 2.5



Existing native vegetation outside natural ecosystems is maintained, including:

- a) Existing agroforestry shade tree cover;
- b) Existing vegetated zones adjacent to aquatic ecosystems;
- c) Large native trees, except when these pose hazards to people or infrastructure.

Objective Maintain the currently present trees and other native vegetation to contribute to the diversification of production systems, conserve native habitats and their biodiversity, and support ecosystem services such as pollination, biological pest control, and water purification.

General Guidance

- If large native trees are removed because they pose a hazard to people or to infrastructure, then applicable local laws are complied with; and farm present evidence of such compliance.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 2.6



The farm management and group administrator develop a map that includes natural ecosystems and agroforestry canopy cover or border plantings with estimated vegetation coverage and estimated percentage of native species composition. If the farm or group of member farms have less than 10% total native vegetation cover or less than 15% total native vegetation cover for farms growing shade-tolerant crops, the farm management and group administrator develop and implement a plan to progressively increase or restore native vegetation, including:

- a) Restoration of zones adjacent to aquatic ecosystems;
- b) Restoration of farmed areas of marginal productivity to natural ecosystem; or
- c) Incorporation of native trees as border plantings and barriers around housing and infrastructure, live fences, shade trees, and permanent agroforestry systems.

Objective Increase the population and coverage of non-crop natural vegetation on the farm through carefully planned plantings and ecosystem restoration.

General Guidance

- For farm groups: the 10% or 15% thresholds apply as an average for all member farms, and not by individual farm.
- Canopy cover is determined during the peak period of shade, and not after being pruned.
- 10% or 15% coverage percentages are ideal goals. For farms and groups whose existing vegetative cover does not reach those percentages in spite of careful planning and implementation, future restoration efforts focus on native species.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 2.7



If zones adjacent to aquatic ecosystems are not protected according to Rainforest Alliance restoration parameters, a plan is developed and implemented to restore these zones.

Objective Plan to achieve the conservation of all riparian areas on the farm's or group administrator's properties.

General Guidance

- The plan determines the areas and their location subject to restoration and how restoration is achieved: through planting of native species, removal of non-native species, and active or passive facilitation of natural ecological succession.
- The plan prioritizes restoration of areas with steep slopes, fragile soils and other risks of high erosion; and the diversification of tree species.
- If the farm complies with Rainforest Alliance restoration parameters, then it is fully compliant with this criterion and the plan does not need to be developed.
- The restoration parameters for the zones adjacent to aquatic ecosystems are not mandatory for agroforestry production systems with continuous native tree species cover that complies with Rainforest Alliance Canopy Cover Parameters.

LEVEL A

CRITERION 2.8



Rainforest Alliance restoration parameters are implemented for all aquatic ecosystems.

Objective Conserve all riparian areas on the farm's or group administrator's properties.

General Guidance Rainforest Alliance Restoration Parameters: Restoration parameters for adjacent zones of aquatic ecosystems are:

- Remnant or restored vegetation is primarily native, e.g. agroforestry systems that comply with Rainforest Alliance canopy cover and species diversity parameters; and
- Minimum widths of restored areas adjacent to aquatic ecosystems (water course width is defined as the width of the normal flow during the rainy season but not during flood conditions) are:
 - 5 m horizontal width along both sides of water courses less than 5 meters wide;
 - 8 m horizontal width along both sides of water courses 5-10 meters wide, and around springs, wetlands, and other water bodies;
 - 15 m horizontal width along both sides of rivers wider than 10 m.



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LEVEL A

CRITERION 2.9



Farms with shade-tolerant crops have at least 15% total native vegetation coverage across the farm or group of farms or a shade canopy fulfilling the Rainforest Alliance canopy cover and species diversity parameters. Farms or groups of farms with non shade-tolerant crops have at least 10% total native vegetation coverage across the farm or group of farms.

Objective Maintain all native vegetation and contribute to the diversification of production systems, conservation of native habitats and their diversity, and support critical ecosystem services such as pollination, pest control, and water purification.

General Guidance

- If existing tree cover exceeds Rainforest Alliance canopy cover and species diversity parameters, then canopy cover levels can be adjusted as long as they continue to fulfill these parameters.
- Rainforest Alliance canopy cover and species diversity parameters: conformance with minimum canopy cover (% total aerial coverage of tree canopies excluding crop trees) is based on estimations during the time of the year when tree foliage is most dense. Rainforest Alliance minimum regional canopy cover and tree species diversity parameters per crop are:

Shade Tolerant Crop	Regions	Minimum canopy cover (%)	Minimum No. of native tree species per hectare
Coffee	Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean	40	12
Cocoa	West Africa, East Africa, South East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean	30	5
Clove, Vanilla	East Africa	40	12
Pepper	South East Asia	20	12

Specific Guidance



Canopy cover percentage is evaluated in the group as a whole, by calculating an average of canopy cover with the data collected from the members farm in the audit sample.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

LEVEL C

CRITERION 2.10



Endangered species of plants are not collected, except for:

- a) non-commercial collection for traditional medicinal use; or
- b) conservation or scientific research purposes, and only with prior permission from legal authorities.

Objective Contribute to the conservation of endangered plants on the farm's or group administrator's properties.

- General Guidance**
- Endangered species are designated by national laws or classification systems or - in their absence - listed as threatened by the IUCN Red List of Endangered and Critically Endangered Species™ [available at: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>] and/or listed in Appendices I, II, or III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) [available at: <https://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>].
 - Farms identify endangered species that may be present within the farm.
 - Farms verify that plant species are not endangered before starting any non-commercial collection activities.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 2.11



Wildlife is not held in captivity. Captive animals that were present on the farm before the earliest certification date may be held only for non-commercial purposes for the remainder of their lives if not mistreated.

Objective Let wildlife live in their habitat and assure animal welfare of those animals already held in captivity before certification.

- General Guidance**
- Commercial purpose includes the production of civet coffee by civets held in captivity and is hence prohibited.
 - Mistreatment refers to situations in which the animal welfare is compromised. Signs of abuse, neglects or cruelty may include but are not limited to poor body condition and/or noticeable trauma; lack of food, water and/or shelter; lack of sanitation; pest infestations on the animal's body; and containment facilities that do not permit the animal to exercise or change positions.
 - Exception for holding animals in captivity applies for animals in captivity, if farm is part of a legally established program to receive and rehabilitate wildlife. If animals are to be released, then applicable law and regulations are complied with.



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LEVEL C

CRITERION 2.12



Invasive species are not intentionally introduced or released. Existing invasive plant species or their parts are not disposed in aquatic ecosystems.

Objective Avoid the introduction of invasive plants or animals categorized as 100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species into the farm or group administrator properties.

- General Guidance**
- For the purpose of this standard, crop or cattle species are not considered invasive species.
 - For the purpose of the 2017 Standard, only the following species will be considered as invasive: 1) Species included in the list of “100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species” (available at http://www.issg.org/worst100_species.html), in those areas where the list points them as invasive; and 2) Species declared as invasive according to local law and competent authorities.
 - If invasive plants are removed, their parts or residues are not deposited aquatic ecosystems (see definition in "Natural Ecosystems").
 - Intentional introduction does not refer to the arrival of the species due to natural processes of succession, for example a pioneer species that settles in an area of young secondary growth or that is treated as fallow land.
 - Exception applies for farms that have wastewater treatment systems that use water lilies or lotus (in ponds), as long as farms establish a mechanism to prevent this species to invade natural aquatic ecosystems.

LEVEL A

CRITERION 2.13



Farms minimize human-wildlife conflicts affecting workers, wildlife, crops, or farm assets through the siting and design of farm infrastructure and fencing; maintenance or establishment of wildlife corridors to facilitate wildlife movement while minimizing conflict; and training workers in procedures and emergency responses for addressing crop damage or wildlife attacks.

Objective Prevent unnecessary conflicts between producers or workers and wildlife.

- General Guidance**
- Farms identify all potential risks of wild animals confrontation or attacks. Procedures and emergency responses specify what to do in case of an animal sighting, confrontations or attacks; and workers understand and apply such procedures.
 - Applicable situations include [but are not limited to]: the risk of wild cats attacking cattle, elephants moving through tea plantations, coyotes in coffee plantations or the presence of venomous and non-venomous snakes.



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LEVEL A

CRITERION 2.14



Efforts are implemented to contain and reduce invasive plants already present on the farm.

Objective Reduce and remove invasive plants and their residues on the farm's and group administrator's properties.

- General Guidance**
- If invasive plants are removed, their parts or residues are not deposited aquatic ecosystems (see definition in "Natural Ecosystems").
 - For the purpose of criterion A 2.14, invasive plant species are the weed, bush or tree species referenced by IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) as 100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species (http://www.issg.org/worst100_species.html). It applies only to the alien range of distribution and to species categorized as invasive.
 - Exception applies for farms that have wastewater treatment systems that use water lilies or lotus (in ponds), as long as farms establish a mechanism to prevent this species to invade natural aquatic ecosystems.
 - Efforts can be included and documented as part of the Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM).

Specific Guidance



Group administrator supports its members in identifying invasive plant species in their region. Support activities include but are not limited to training, providing of technical assistance and inventory preparation



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PRINCIPLE 3:
NATURAL RESOURCE
CONSERVATION

2017 Sustainable Agriculture Standard

CRITICAL

CRITERION 3.1



Wastewater from processing operations is not discharged into aquatic ecosystems unless it has undergone treatment to meet Rainforest Alliance industrial wastewater parameters. Wastewater from processing operations is not applied to land with very sandy or highly permeable soils, where slopes exceed 8%, or where the water table is seasonally or permanently high. Wastewater from processing operations may not be applied to soil unless it has undergone treatment to remove particulates and toxins and to reduce acidity and complies with additional Rainforest Alliance industrial wastewater parameters for irrigation. Wastewater from processing operations may not be mixed with clean water for the purpose of meeting Rainforest Alliance industrial wastewater parameters.

Objective Minimize contamination from industrial wastewater discharge into aquatic ecosystems and soils.

General Guidance

- Wastewater treatment systems are designed accordingly to the processing operations and the wastewater characteristics; and are not located on soils with permanently or seasonally high water tables, or in very sandy soils that may permit rapid percolation of wastewater into groundwater. Discharging wastewater into holes in the ground is not considered to be a treatment system.
- If wastewater is discharged into water bodies, farms test it to assure compliance with the Rainforest Alliance industrial wastewater parameters (collection of the samples is in the discharge point).
- Wastewater from processing operations may be applied to land with very sandy or highly permeable soils, where slopes exceed 8%, or where the water table is seasonally or permanently high; **if treated** to comply with applicable law and Rainforest Alliance related parameters.
- Wastewater applied to soils must comply with water quality parameters for direct discharge if there is a risk that the wastewater enters aquatic ecosystems before it can infiltrate the soil.
- When wastewater is applied to land, farms take actions to prevent any percolation of wastewater into groundwater; such as analysis and documentation of the irrigated area soils type and characteristics, the slope percentages and the average water table levels in the different seasons.
- When wastewater is used for irrigation of crops and products of fresh consumption, farms comply with Rainforest Alliance Industrial wastewater parameters for irrigation, and demonstrate it by the respective water analysis. When wastewater is used for irrigation of crops not destined to fresh consumption, water analysis can be expendable if additional conditions in the Rainforest Alliance Policy for complying with Criterion 3.1 are met.
- Rainwater that fall directly into treatment systems (such as ponds) is not considered dilution of wastewater.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 3.2



Untreated sewage is not discharged into aquatic ecosystems.

Objective Avoid the contamination of aquatic ecosystems with untreated sewage.

**General
Guidance**

- Toilets are never discharged directly into aquatic ecosystems or drains that lead directly to aquatic ecosystems or represent high risks of contamination.
- Farms demonstrate it has mechanisms to prevent untreated sewage from being discharged into the aquatic ecosystems.
- Stables do not drain or deposit cattle's feces or urine into aquatic ecosystems.
- Sewage may be treated and/or collected via the following methods [but not restricted to them only]:
 - a) Septic tanks: The treatment capacity of septic tanks handles the volume of wastewater received.
 - b) Seepage pits, but not in highly permeable soil conditions or with permanently or seasonally high water tables;
 - c) Seepage trenches or evapotranspiration beds only for heavy clays or soils with other impermeable layers that impede drainage.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 3.3



The farm management develops and implements an integrated pest management (IPM) plan that is based upon the prevention and monitoring of pests and aims to avoid economically significant crop losses while reducing pesticide risks. The farm management determines pest management steps based on the analysis of pest monitoring records. Pests are managed using biological controls or other non-chemical methods where feasible. When pesticides are used, preference is given to non-restricted low toxicity pesticides, and pesticides are applied only to the parts of the crop affected by pests. All workers involved in pest management activities are trained about the contents of the IPM plan.

Objective Establish an IPM plan that reduces production losses by pests and the use of pesticides.

**General
Guidance**

- This criterion is only applicable for farm management including scenarios where a group administrator manages a multi-site organization of several farms or plantations. The criterion is also applicable for multi-sites under one owner.
- The IPM Plan includes [but is not limited to]: mechanisms for pest-prevention; monitoring of pests to identify their presence during periods of crop susceptibility; assess trends and risks associated with climate variability; and determine pest control actions like cultural practices, physical and biological mechanisms, or non-restricted low toxicity pesticides.
- Pest prevention activities include [but are not limited to]: non-chemical pest prevention that limits pest introduction to the farm, prevents pest spread between fields and prevents pest reservoirs from developing; selection of pest-resistant varieties or crops; cultural practices that suppress pest growth, such as: removal of affected plants, pruning, nutrient and water management, and minimum, or conservation tillage; physical mechanisms that damage or remove pests, including: traps, nets, or other barriers; and biological practices that increase pest mortality from predators, parasites or pathogens.
- Pest monitoring activities include [but are not limited to]: identification and recording of pests' presence and extent; use of pest thresholds for decision-making during periods of crop susceptibility; identification of trends and risks associated with climate variability; and consideration of weather patterns that favor pest outbreaks.
- IPM plan is in accordance with the reality of the operations, and practices on the field correspond with the activities and specifications of the IPM Plan.
- Pesticides are only used if their use is justified within the integrated pest management plan.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 3.4



The use of substances included in the *Rainforest Alliance List of Prohibited Pesticides* is prohibited. Only pesticides that are legally registered in the production country are used. The use of agriculture mineral oils is only allowed, if these contain less than 3% of Dimethyl Sulfoxide (DMSO) residues.

- Objectives**
- ✓ Avoid contact of the environment or human beings with WHO/FAO Highly Hazardous Pesticides.
 - ✓ Assure that used pesticides have gone through the registration procedure of local authorities.
 - ✓ Eliminate the cancer causing agent DMSO from applications that use mineral oils as a basis.
- General Guidance**
- Pesticide use records and interviews with pesticide handlers confirm the no use of substances contained in the *Rainforest Alliance List of Prohibited Pesticides* and compliance with the risk mitigation requirements included in this document for nematicides, rodenticides, three neonicotinoids and fipronil, as well as some GHS 1A/1B reproductive toxicity substances.
 - Temporary permissions for unregistered products or off-label use are accepted if farms can provide proof of authorization by competent local authorities.
 - In those cases where the application of certain substances is mandated by local authorities or applicable law, the farm provides evidence of such requirements.
 - Agriculture mineral oils correspond to substances with the following CAS numbers (chemical names corresponding to the mentioned CAS numbers can be searched at <http://ccinfoweb.ccohs.ca/chemindex/search.html>): 64741-88-4; 64741-89-5; 64741-97-5; 64742-46-7; 64742-54-7; 64742-55-8; 64742-65-0; 72623-86-0; 97862-82-3.
 - The *Rainforest Alliance Policy Exceptional Use of FAO/WHO highly hazardous pesticides until June 30, 2020* grants justified and exceptional use some substances included in the Rainforest Alliance List of Prohibited Pesticides, for particular countries and pests, under specific conditions.
 - If substances included in the *Rainforest Alliance Policy Exceptional Use of FAO/WHO highly hazardous pesticides until June 30, 2020* are used, all the respective risk mitigation requirements of this policy must be fully complied with. Otherwise, this situation will be considered as a non-conformity against CC-3.4.
 - If substances included in the Rainforest Alliance List of Pesticides for Use with Risk Mitigation are used, failing to fully comply with the specific risk mitigation requirements will trigger a non-conformity in the following cases: 1) Use of pesticides with risk to aquatic life are subject to compliance with the mitigation criterion 3.27. 2) Use of pesticides with risk to wildlife are subject to compliance with the mitigation criterion 3.27. 3) Use of pesticides with risk to pollinators are subject to compliance with the mitigation criterion 3.29. 4) Use of pesticides with inhalation risk are subject to compliance with the mitigation requirements listed in critical criterion 4.15



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 3.5



Pesticide application by aircraft complies with Rainforest Alliance requirements for aerial fumigation. Workers are not present in areas during aerial fumigation with pesticides. In the case of primary and secondary drainage canals with permanent water, a plan is developed and implemented to cover these water bodies with vegetation or other effective physical means.

Objective Avoid possible negative effects of pesticides sprayed by planes, helicopters or other aircrafts on natural ecosystems and areas with human activity.

- General Guidance**
- This criterion is also applicable for multi-sites under one owner or group administrators with mixed membership of plantations and smallholders, if these plantations receive aerial fumigation.
 - Farms implement mechanisms to assure that persons are not present in lots that are being sprayed with pesticides by aircrafts. Such mechanisms may include: programming work in other areas of the farm, signs and direct communication with the workers (e.g.: If farms are subdivided in two blocks - Block A and Block B - workers are present in Block A when Block B is being sprayed or vice versa and airplanes are always at minimum 30 meters away from the block with present workers).
 - Workers and bystanders are aware of the mechanisms implemented to prevent them to be in areas that are being fumigated.
 - The plan demonstrate an effort for compliance accordingly to the farm economic and technical capabilities.
 - Aircraft requirements and operational reports are checked at the airport, facilities or administration offices in charge of the aerial fumigation.
 - See Terms and Definitions, "Rainforest Alliance requirements for aerial fumigation" for more details.
 - For operations in Brazil, please consult the *Rainforest Alliance Policy for Aerial fumigation requirements adapted for Brazil*.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 3.6



Crops covered by the Rainforest Alliance certificate scope do not consist of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and are not repackaged or processed with GMO products.

- Objective** Avoid the presence of GMOs in products included in the Rainforest Alliance certificate scope.
- General Guidance**
- Farms demonstrate that seeds and any other genetic material used for crop propagation of crops under the Rainforest Alliance certificate scope are free of transgenic materials through certificates showing the seeds' origins, invoices for the purchase of propagation materials or receipts providing evidence of the materials' origin.
 - Producers and operations can cultivate GMO crops within their property limits under the condition that the products originating from these GMO crops will not bear the Rainforest Alliance Certified Seal (*Traceability systems implemented as required by Critical Criterion 1.3*)
 - Production plots with GMO crops are mapped and registered.

CRITICAL

CRITERION 3.7

Farms do not use human sewage in production or processing activities.

- Objective** Minimize any negative effect in human and environmental health due to the discharge of sewage.
- General Guidance** Farms demonstrate that it has mechanisms in place to treat and/or collect human sewage, in order to ensure it is not being used for production or processing activities.

SOIL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

LEVEL C

CRITERION 3.8

Farms reduce water and wind erosion through practices such as ground covers, mulches, re-vegetation of steep areas, terracing, filter strips, or minimization of herbicide use.

Objective Minimize erosion in the farm soils.

General Guidance

- Farms identify soils affected by or susceptible to erosion and develop a plan to reduce it.
- This information is included in the Plan requested in Criterion 1.7 [references to other criteria]
- Farms document all practices taken to reduce erosion.
- Practices taken to reduce soil erosion consider:
 - Soil type
 - Topography
 - Climatic conditions.
- Soils with evidence of erosion (landslides, gullies, sedimentation in water channels, surface erosion, pedestal under stones), that are subjected to prevention or control measures.
- Ground covers may include cover crops, mulches, or green manure. These are implemented to help minimize erosion, enhance soil fertility, reduce water stress, and minimize pest or disease propagation. If cover crops are planted, the species, location and seasonality of these plantings is designed to minimize competition with crops for water or nutrients. Ground covers do not consist in invasive species.
- Soil conditions and management are to be evaluated regardless of whether productive systems use soil or direct planting or not (e.g. hydroponic systems).

LEVEL C

CRITERION 3.9



Fire may be used only for pest control, only as prescribed by the IPM plan and only if it creates less negative environmental impact than other pest control measures. To protect nearby natural ecosystems, infrastructure, and communities, fire is applied only by trained workers with fire suppression tools, personal protective equipment, and access to water for firefighting, and only when wind speed and direction create minimal risk of uncontrolled burning. If fire is used, fire use areas and history are indicated on updated farm maps.

Objective Limit and regulate the use of fire as a pest control mechanism.

General Guidance

- Use of fire is included into the IPM Plan (Criterion 3.3).
- Personal protective equipment is appropriate for firefighting activities, and its available at a free cost to the workers (in compliance with requirements in Criterion 4.15).
- Sources of firefighting water are available, a delivery system is in place and well-maintained. In the absence of firefighting water, other substances are available, such as suppressants or surfactants.
- When using fire: farms have mechanisms in place to monitor wind speed and direction conditions.
- Smallholders may use of fire for cooking directly on the ground, as it is out of this criterion's scope.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.10

Farms implement practices such as crop rotation, planting of nitrogen-fixing ground covers or cover crops, or application of compost or mulch to maintain or enhance soil health.

Objective Improve soil health and ensure long term productivity.

General Guidance

- Farms identify soils affected by or susceptible to erosion.
- Farms document all practices taken to reduce erosion.
- This information is included in the Plan requested in Criterion 1.7.
- Evidence of soils constrains (soil compaction, weed pressure, high pathogen pressure, low water and nutrient retention, salinity and sodicity, heavy metal contamination), are subjected to control measures.
- Ground covers may include cover crops, mulches, or green manure. These are applied to help minimize erosion, enhance soil fertility, reduce water stress, and minimize pest or disease propagation.



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LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.11

Nutrient management practices are implemented based on assessment of crop needs, regular monitoring of soil fertility and crop nutrient status, or recommendations from local agronomic experts. Organic fertilizers are preferentially used where locally available.

Objective Implement nutrient management practices increase productivity and profitability, while reducing nutrient losses and contamination of the environment.

General Guidance

- Periodic soil or foliage sampling and analysis are included in the assessments.
- The assessment of crop needs, monitoring of soil fertility and recommendations from local agronomic experts are recorded.
- Organic fertilizers are preferred when locally available and nutrient content allow to cover the crops' basic fertilization needs; complementary nutrient needs can be met by using other non-organic fertilizers.
- Where locally available means if enough volume is available to meet plants nutrient needs and transportation costs of organic fertilizers don't reduce profit significantly.
- Local agronomic expert refers to the definition of competent professional (as defined in the 2017 Standard Terms & Definitions): An individual with demonstrated professional expertise, skills, experience and credentials in a specific subject area.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.12

Farms apply fertilizers precisely to make nutrients available when and where crops need them and to minimize loss to or contamination of the environment. Equipment for mixing and applying fertilizer is calibrated annually, after maintenance, or whenever the product type is changed.

Objective Ensure that the amount of fertilizer applied covers the crop demands and do not result in environmental contamination.

General Guidance

- Fertilizer application mechanisms maximizes nutrient availability to crop plants and minimizes lixiviation and soil fixation losses.
- Fertilizer application is timed to make nutrients available when the crops need them.
- Different product types are defined by the active ingredient, formulation, application rate and the physical state of the product (i.e. liquid, solid and/or emulsion).
- If commercial product is changed, but formulation and application rates are the same or very similar, equipment does not have to be calibrated again.



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LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.13

Farms reduce soil compaction through no-till or reduced-tillage farming, low pressure tires, or restrictions on vehicle size and access times.

Objective Minimize soil compaction in the farm soils.

General Guidance

- All places within the farm with evidence of soil compaction are subject to control measures, such as: no-till or reduced-tillage farming, low pressure tires, or restrictions on vehicle size and access time.
- In this case, tilling also includes animal traction and other non-mechanized tilling implements.

LEVEL A

CRITERION 3.14

Based on record-keeping (see 1.11), the farm management and group administrator demonstrate that nutrient inputs to crops and soils are sufficient to compensate for production-related uptake and losses, but do not contribute to eutrophication through excessive application.

Objective Demonstrate that applied fertilizers compensate for production-related uptake but do not result in environmental contamination or soil degradation.

WATER CONSERVATION

LEVEL C

CRITERION 3.15



Farms comply with applicable law for the withdrawal of surface or groundwater for agricultural, domestic or processing purposes.

Objective Comply with applicable law regulating the access and exploitation of water sources.

- General Guidance**
- Farms have all permits and authorizations required by local applicable law for the water it is using.
 - In cases where applicable law, local authorities and procedures may be slow, highly complicated or inexistent, evidence of compliance with the law can include proof of permits being processed or consultation documents.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 3.16



Any new irrigation system is designed to optimize crop or pasture productivity while minimizing water waste, erosion and salinization.

Objective Assure new irrigation systems are designed to improve efficiency.

- General Guidance**
- New irrigation systems are those that are established and/or replaced after the operations entering the certification scheme.
 - New irrigation systems are designed according to the crops or pasture needs and its location and size, soil type, rainfall, slope, among others. The design considers efficient use of water and measures to avoid erosion and salinization.
 - For new irrigation systems that require withdrawal of 500,000 m³/year or more, will require an ESIA, an ESAI will be conducted, as instructed by Critical Criterion 1.4.



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LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.17

For operations that irrigate or that use water for processing or cattle production, the farm management and group administrator develop and implement a water conservation plan to reduce water use per unit of product produced or processed. The plan documents current water consumption, evaluates future water needs and water availability, and establishes targets for improving water use efficiency.

Objective Optimize and reduce the use of water in productive systems.

General Guidance

- The plan includes information about the elements used to calculate adequate water flows within the productive systems.
- The plan and the information that it provides is congruent with water use records (as requested in Criterion C-1.7)
- Acceptable mechanisms to reduce water use are: a) Water re-use and recycling in processing operations; b) Installation of more water-efficient processing equipment; c) Replacement of broadcast irrigation with drip irrigation; d) Collection of rainwater from roofs and other hard surfaces; e) Ground water recharge; or f) Use of pits, contours or bunds to direct rainwater to plant roots.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.18

Existing irrigation and water distribution systems are managed and maintained to optimize crop or pasture productivity and minimize water waste, erosion and salinization.

Objective Optimize and reduce the use of water in productive systems.

General Guidance

- Farms implement and schedule maintenance activities for all irrigation and water distribution systems. Where irrigation by gravity is implemented, all channels and alleys are kept clean.
- Irrigation and water distribution systems look clean and well maintained. There are no leaks, broken pipes, valves that do not close properly or other evidence of water being wasted.

LEVEL A

CRITERION 3.19

Based on record-keeping (see 1.10), the farm demonstrates reductions in water used for irrigation, processing, or cattle production per unit of product produced or processed.

Objective Demonstrate reductions of use of water and progress based on water conservation plan (Criterion 3.17)

General Guidance

- Water use records evidence a reduction and progress in the water conservation plan

WATER QUALITY

LEVEL C

CRITERION 3.20



Greywater is collected and managed through treatment or drainage systems, and is not discharged into aquatic ecosystems.

Objective Avoid contamination and eutrophication of aquatic ecosystems.

- General Guidance**
- Greywater treatment may be through mechanisms such as:
 - a) Seepage pits, but not in highly permeable soil conditions or with permanently or seasonally high water tables;
 - b) Seepage trenches or evapotranspiration beds only for heavy clays or soils with other impermeable layers that impede drainage.
 - Greywater can be applied to soil surfaces for treatment under the following conditions:
 - there is a permanent vegetation cover;
 - slopes less than 3%;
 - applied greywater does not reach waterways before infiltrating the soils;
 - soils do not have high water tables; are not highly permeable (sandy) nor impermeable (clayey or with restrictive layers);
 - wastewater is free of pesticide residuals and chemical substances, other than domestic cleaning products (soap, detergent, bleach, etc.).
 - Treatment and drainage systems include [but are not limited to]:
 - basins: shallow landscape depressions that are dry most of the time when it's not raining;
 - rain-gardens: shallow landscape depressions with shrub or herbaceous planting;
 - swales: shallow normally-dry, wide-based ditches;
 - filter drains: gravel filled trench drain;
 - bio-retention basins: shallow depressions with gravel and/or sand filtration layers beneath the growing medium;
 - reed beds; and
 - other types of non-natural wetlands that collect, store, and filter residual water along with providing a habitat for wildlife.



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LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.21



Farms map all pit latrines and sewage disposal sites and their drainage systems. These systems are sited, designed and managed to minimize risks to aquatic ecosystems and drinking water supplies.

Objective Minimize risks of contamination of aquatic ecosystems and drinking water supplies.

- General Guidance**
- Pit latrines and sewage disposal systems are not located near any body of water to prevent water contamination.
 - There is no evidence of sewage reaching body waters or soil surfaces.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.22



Treated sewage meets the water quality parameters as defined by applicable law prior to discharge.

 *Not Applicable to Smallholders*

Objective Avoid health risks and environmental contamination due to the discharge of untreated sewage

- General Guidance**
- Farms regularly test the quality parameters of sewage before disposal.
 - Samples are collected at the discharge point.



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INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

LEVEL C

CRITERION 3.23

In the case of groups, the group administrator develops an integrated pest management (IPM) plan for the group, according to the contents of Critical Criterion 3.3. The group administrator trains and supports its members to implement this plan on the member farms.

Objective Support farm members to establish an IPM Plan.

- General Guidance**
- This criterion is only applicable for groups under models 2 (democratic) and 3 (private). Group administrators with plantations, such as "Multiple-sites under one owner" have to comply with critical criterion 3.3.
 - The group administrator documents all activities implemented according to the IPM Plan.
 - The group administrator keeps records of all members training activities (see Guidance Criterion 1.12 for general requirements about training records).
 - The plan takes in consideration the different types of member farms and their production systems and conditions.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 3.24

The farm management and group administrator record pest infestations with the following parameters:

- a) Pest type;
- b) Infestation dates, area and location, and degree of damage; and
- c) Weather during the infestation.

Objective Collect data that serves to predict likely pest attacks, reduce pesticide use and plan better IPM practices.

- General Guidance**
- There are personnel on the farm trained in identifying and monitoring pests.
 - Records may consist in diaries or notebooks; or in record mechanisms for certain infestations required by local authorities (such as forms, reports, or others).
 - Recommendation is to keep records for at least 3 years; timeframes are reduced or increased according to the production systems and conditions.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.25

Smallholders record pest infestations with the following parameters:

- a) Pest type;
- b) Infestation dates, area and location, and degree of damage; and
- c) Weather during the infestation.

Objective Collect data that serves to predict likely pest attacks, reduce pesticide use and better plan IPM practices.

General Guidance

- Records may consist in diaries or notebooks; or in record mechanisms for certain infestations required by local authorities (such as forms or reports).
- Recommendation is to keep records for at least 3 years; timeframes are reduced or increased according to the production systems and conditions.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.26

The farm management and group administrator analyze pesticide application and pest monitoring records, document any significant reductions or increases in pest severity and pesticide use, and update the IPM plan annually considering the effectiveness of past pest management approaches and any new pest control challenges or opportunities.

Objective Optimize the IPM plan and its resulting IPM practices enabling higher productivity, profitability and less pesticide use.

General Guidance

- Pesticide applications and pest monitoring records are analyzed.
- Measures are implemented to evaluate the effectiveness of the IPM Plan
- Changes in the IPM Plan are documented and justified by field data.
- IPM Plan shows annual updates and farms explain how the information was used to guide the implementation of the IPM plan
- Records may consist in diaries or notebooks; or in record mechanisms for certain infestations required by local authorities (such as forms, reports, or others).



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INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

LEVEL C

CRITERION 3.27



Farms apply substances listed in the *Rainforest Alliance List of Pesticides for Use with Risk Mitigation* as having risk to aquatic life only if Rainforest Alliance non-application zones around aquatic natural ecosystems are enforced or vegetative barriers are established compliant with Rainforest Alliance parameters for vegetative barriers or other effective mechanisms to reduce spray drift. Farms apply substances listed in the Rainforest Alliance List of Pesticides for Use with Risk Mitigation as having risk to wildlife only if Rainforest Alliance non-application zones around natural ecosystems are enforced or vegetative barriers are established compliant with Rainforest Alliance parameters for vegetative barriers or other effective mechanisms to reduce spray drift.

Objective Prevent spray drift of substances with risk to mammals, birds, fish and other aquatic organisms towards the natural ecosystems where these animals inhabit.

General Guidance

- Use of substances listed in the *Rainforest Alliance List of Pesticides for use with risk mitigation* under the category of aquatic life or wildlife risk is justified and documented in the IPM Plan.
- The spray reduction measures for pesticides with risk for aquatic life are only necessary for streams, rivers, lakes or other aquatic ecosystems.
- Effective measures to reduce spray drift may be [but are not restricted to]: use application mechanisms that do not atomize pesticides but rather apply them with direct contact to the plant part or weed (e.g. injection into trunk or brush or drench application); avoid application when is windy, hot and dry, through the monitoring of weather conditions; and moderate the drop size, nozzle pressure and flow rates.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 3.28



Farms establish and maintain non-crop vegetative barriers compliant with Rainforest Alliance parameters for vegetative barriers or Rainforest Alliance non-application zones between pesticides applied crops and areas of human activity.

Objective Minimize the contact of workers and their families, bystanders or other people with pesticides.

General Guidance

- Vegetative barriers are visible around production plots and well maintained.
- Farms decide whether to establish vegetative barriers **or** non-application zones.



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LEVEL C

CRITERION 3.29



Farms apply substances listed in the *Rainforest Alliance List of Pesticides for Use with Risk Mitigation* as having risks for pollinators only if:

- a) Less toxic, efficacious pesticides are not available;
- b) Exposure to natural ecosystems is minimized by complying with Rainforest Alliance non-application zones or by establishing vegetative barriers compliant with Rainforest Alliance parameters for vegetative barriers or by implementing other effective mechanisms to reduce spray drift; and
- c) Contact of pollinators with these substances is further reduced through:
 - i. Substances are applied only when pollinators are not active; or
 - ii. Substances are not applied to flowering weeds or flowering weeds are removed; and
 - iii. Substances are applied while the crop is not in peak flowering period. Not applicable to banana, cocoa, grapes, lemon grass, pineapple, psyllium, sugar cane, and tea.
- d) If bee hives are used, they are temporarily covered during application, and hive bees are provided with a clean water source outside the treated area.

Objective Avoid the contact of specific insecticides to pollinators or their habitats with special emphasis on bees.

- General Guidance**
- For the purpose of this Criterion, the term “pollinators” refers to insect pollinators.
 - Farms justify and document the use of substances listed in the Rainforest Alliance List of Pesticides for use with risk mitigation under the category of pollinator risk, as part of their IPM Plan.
 - Farms document and implement measures to reduce spray drift.
 - No application to flowering weeds is achieved by implementing the spray drift reduction measures detailed in 3.29 b).

LEVEL C

CRITERION 3.30



All pesticides are stored in a safely locked storage facility. Only people trained in pesticide risks and management have access to the pesticide storage facility.

Objective Prevent access of unauthorized and untrained people to pesticides with health and environmental risks.

- General Guidance**
- Restricted facilities and authorized personnel are clearly identified.
 - Training of authorized personnel is registered and covers all relevant aspects outlined in the Occupational Health and Safety Plan.
 - Pesticide storage facilities are designed to assure safety and prevent the access of unauthorized people.



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LEVEL C

CRITERION 3.31



Pesticides listed in the *Rainforest Alliance Prohibited Pesticides List* and expired products that were in use before farms applied for certification are returned to the supplier or, if the supplier does not accept these products, these are labeled and stored separately from other products until disposed of safely.

Objective Dispose highly hazardous or obsolete pesticides safely.

General Guidance

- Some pesticides included the *Rainforest Alliance Prohibited Pesticide List* can be used only under the *Rainforest Alliance Procedure for Exceptional Pesticide Use*.
- Prohibited and expired pesticides are clearly identified and workers do not use them.
- If such products are disposed of, the disposal method does not pose health or safety risks to farmers, workers, other people, or natural ecosystems; and follow the product label instructions.
- Safe disposal methods may include: uniformly sprays over grassy areas, and establishment of dedicated safe areas/pits on farm for the disposal of pesticides.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 3.32



Potentially affected persons or communities are identified, alerted, and warned in advance about pesticide applications and prevented from access to pesticide application areas.

Objective Minimize external people's exposure to pesticides that don't wear Personal Protective Equipment.

General Guidance

- People most likely to be affected by pesticide applications are identified, and different mechanisms in the local language or dialect and understandable within the cultural context of neighboring communities are used to warn the indicated people, such as radio programs, signs, talks, letters and announcements.
- Warning's information includes dates and times of planned applications, pesticide types and the restricted entry period. Warning signs are used to prevent access to application areas. Workers and bystanders who pass through the farm understand the meaning of the signs and respect the entry restrictions.
- If signs are not effective measures, farm implement complementary mechanisms, such as security barriers and personnel, to prevent access to application areas when signs are not sufficient, as in the case of public roads.
- Farms document and keep records of the warning mechanisms in place.
- Workers, neighbors and members of surrounding communities express that they were warned about pesticide applications and the consequences.



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LEVEL C

CRITERION 3.33



Empty pesticide containers and application equipment are triple washed, and the rinse water is returned back to the application mix for re-application. Empty pesticide containers are kept in a locked storage area until safely returned to the supplier or, if the supplier does not accept empty containers, they are cut or perforated to prevent other uses. Containers may be re-used only for the original contents and only when labeled accordingly.

Objective Dispose pesticides residues and containers safely to avoid contamination risks to the people and environment.

- General Guidance**
- Workers are trained and know how to safely triple wash and dispose empty containers.
 - Original contents mean active ingredient. Old containers can be used to storage substances with the same active ingredient even if the product commercial name or formulation is different.
 - After containers have been cut or perforated, they can be:
 - Sequestration: landfills and pits.
 - Destruction: high temperature incineration, base catalyzed dechlorination, gas phase chemical reduction or plasma arc.
 - Further details on pesticide container management can be consulted in FAO & WHO. (2008). *Guidelines on Management Options for Empty Pesticide Containers*. Available at: <http://www.san.ag/learningandsupport/resources/biblioteca.php?cat=21>

LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.34

Farms select the optimum pesticide application equipment and techniques for the crop and pesticide type to reduce spray drift.

Objective Reduce pesticide spray drift and wasting pesticide products.

- General Guidance**
- Optimum agrochemical application equipment and techniques include [but are not limited to]:
 - 1) Minimum application equipment height above the crop;
 - 2) Application equipment with spray shields or curtains at the crop edge;
 - 3) Correct selection of nozzles, application pressure, tractor and plane velocity, and application rates.
 - Optimum weather conditions for pesticide application are:
 - 1) Cooler temperatures to avoid vapor drift or transport of small spray drops on convection currents;
 - 2) Wind is blowing away from natural ecosystems, housing areas or public roads.



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LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.35



Pre-harvest intervals of pesticides as stipulated in the product's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), label or security tag are complied with when applying pesticides. When two or more products with different pre-harvest intervals are used at the same time, the longest interval is applied.

Objective Assure minimum levels of pesticide residues in crop products through good timing of pesticide applications before harvest.

General Guidance

- The pre-harvest interval (PHI) is a function of a pesticide's use pattern and of the amount of pesticide residues allowed on the crop at harvest. It is the interval of time between the last application of pesticide and the safe harvesting of edible crops for immediate consumption.
- Pre-harvest intervals apply for all crops as indicated in the applied product(s) MSDS or label.
- All pesticides application dates and hours are registered to ensure compliance with the pre-harvest intervals of pesticides.
- Pesticides Material Safety Data Sheets can be consulted at www.msds.com (available in English and French).

LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.36

The farm management and group administrator calibrate equipment for mixing and applying pesticides, at least annually, after maintenance, and whenever the type of product is changed.

Objective Reduce pesticide spray drift and wasting pesticide products.

General Guidance

- If there is a department for the storage and reparation of equipment for mixing and applying pesticides, that department provides information on the calibration and maintenance of equipment.
- Different product types are defined by the product function (herbicide, fungicide, nematicide, bactericide); active ingredient, formulation, application rate and the physical state of the product (i.e. liquid, solid and/or emulsion).
- If commercial product is changed, but formulation and application rates are the same or very similar, equipment does not have to be calibrated again.



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WASTE MANAGEMENT

LEVEL C

CRITERION 3.37



Waste storage, treatment and disposal practices do not pose health or safety risks to farmers, workers, other people, or natural ecosystems.

Objective Avoid health or safety risks to people or negative impacts to natural ecosystems, related to the inadequate handling and disposal of waste.

General Guidance

- Storage and disposal sites are located and designed for optimum deposit or processing of both organic and inorganic waste through an evaluation of site characteristics, the volume and type of waste and potential impacts.
- Bio-infectious waste is treated according to applicable law.
- Containers and storage and disposal sites are designed or treated to prevent the proliferation of pests and disease vectors such as flies, mice and cockroach (e.g. lids for containers, effective microorganisms for disposal sites).
- If the farms use services provided by local authorities for waste collection, it can be considered as compliant with the criterion.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 3.38

The farm management and group administrator develop and implement a waste management plan including:

- a) Documentation of the origin, approximate volume, and current means of disposal for all waste streams; and
- b) Activities to segregate different waste types to facilitate re-use, recycling or composting.

Objective Support the reduction of waste and optimal use of available resources in a systematized way.

General Guidance

- Approximate volumes can be calculated based on samples taken at different times.
- Waste streams (types) can be: plastics, organics, glass, metal, bio-infectious, construction materials, electronics, paper and card board, etc.
- Group administrators can calculate approximate values based on random samples and averages.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.39



Waste is not burned, except in incinerators technically designed for the specific waste type.

Objective Avoid air contamination caused by burning of waste.

General Guidance

- Incinerators are based on technical studies that determine the size, optimum location and control measures for minimizing the environmental and human health impacts related to its construction and operation.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.40

Waste is segregated based on available waste management and disposal options. Recyclable wastes are separated and recycled. Organic waste is composted or otherwise processed for use as organic fertilizer. Scrap materials that can feasibly be reused are stored in designated areas away from processing plants and housing.

Objective Promote the reuse and recycling of waste.

General Guidance

- Workers are trained and know how to separate different types of waste from the source of origin, and facilities exist to segregate the waste.
- The re-use and recycling of waste is promoted.
- Facilities for waste storage and recycling minimizes health risks and pests and vectors propagation.
- In this context, the term “away” is understood as not “within” processing or housing areas (including their gardens and recreation areas if applicable).

LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.41

Farms and infrastructure are kept clean and free of waste accumulations outside of designated storage and disposal sites.

Objective Prevent contamination and the spread of pests or disease vectors caused by uncontrolled waste accumulation.

General Guidance

- Waste receptacles are available and their contents are regularly collected and disposed of.
- Farm’s facilities minimize health risks and pests and vectors propagation.



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LEVEL A

CRITERION 3.42

The farm management and group administrator give priority to product suppliers that minimize the waste associated with their products, and that accept used packaging and containers for recycling.

Objective Encourage waste reduction throughout the supply chain.

General Guidance

- Product suppliers use recyclable containers and avoid selling big product volumes fragmented in small amounts.

LEVEL A

CRITERION 3.43

The farm management and group administrator check service providers who remove oil, plastic and sewage waste and ensure that the contractors' disposal and recycling methods do not pose risks to natural ecosystems, drinking water supplies, or the health and safety of people living near the disposal sites.

Objective Assure that service providers disposal and recycling methods do not represent a risk to environmental and human health.

General Guidance

- Service providers complies with applicable law and inform how disposal sites comply with criterion C-3.37 requirements.



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ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.44

The farm management and group administrator develop and implement an energy efficiency plan including:

- a) Quantity and type of energy sources and associated machinery used for production, processing, and domestic use.
- b) Targets for increasing energy efficiency and for reducing dependency on non-renewable energy sources.

Objective Set the basis of increasing energy efficiency and reliance on renewable energy sources.

General Guidance The energy efficiency plan covers everything within the farm management and group administrator scopes.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 3.45

If biomass energy is used, the farm management and group administrator minimize the direct or indirect effects of biomass use on natural ecosystems through actions such as:

- a) Planting trees to increase the availability of biomass energy from tree plantations;
- b) When biomass is purchased, ensuring that it originates from sources not associated with the destruction of forests or other natural ecosystems;
- c) Installing energy-efficient drying and processing infrastructure; or
- d) Supporting increased energy efficiency in domestic fuelwood use by workers, farmers and their families through training, or facilitating access to energy-efficient cook stoves.

Objective Minimize the negative direct or indirect effects of biomass use on natural ecosystems.

LEVEL A

CRITERION 3.46

Based on record-keeping (see 1.11), the farm management and group administrator demonstrate reductions in overall energy use or non-renewable energy use per unit product grown or processed.

Objective Demonstrate reductions in overall energy use or non-renewable energy use.

General Guidance

- Energy use records evidence a reduction and progress in the energy efficiency plan.

PRINCIPLE 4:
**IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS & HUMAN
WELLBEING**

2017 Sustainable Agriculture Standard

CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.1



All forms of forced, compulsory, or slave labor are prohibited, including use of trafficked and bonded labor, labor by prisoners or soldiers, or the use of extortion, debt, threats, monetary fines or penalties.

According to ILO Forced Labor Convention (No. 29) and Abolition of Forced Labor Convention (No. 105)

Objective Ensure the individual right of people to select their work site without exertion of any kind of pressure.

General Guidance

- Applies to any type of operation and any type of worker.
- Includes prohibition of workers from rehabilitation programs that carry out agricultural activities within a state regime of punishment for committed crimes.
- Forced, compulsory or slave labor: All work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered herself or himself voluntarily. This includes:
 - a) Forcing workers to work or stay at the workplace;
 - b) Control of worker access to food, water, toilets, canteens, medical care or health clinics as a means to discipline or reward workers;
 - c) Withholding workers' salaries, documents, IDs, benefits, property or any rights acquired in the course or due to the status of work or stipulated by law;
 - d) Restricting the workers' freedom of movement to and from their employer-provided housing, unless such movement would compromise the residents' security;
 - e) Bonded labor that forces workers to work due to debt owed to a recruiter, farm or group administrator representative;
 - f) Labor by prisoners or those working under the regimen of imprisonment, even when permitted by local regulations or other laws.

(Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour (Entry into force: 1 May 1932); Adoption: Geneva, 14th ILC session (28 June 1930).

- Further details on Forced Labor Conventions can be consulted in:
 - ILO (1930). *Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)*. Available at: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::no:12100:p12100_instrument_id:312174.
 - ILO (1957). *Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, (No. 105)*. Available at: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C105.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.2



Workers are treated respectfully and are never subjected to threats, intimidation, sexual abuse or harassment, or verbal, physical or psychological mistreatment.

Objective Protect all workers' physical and psychological integrity.

**General
Guidance**

- Applies to any type of operation and any type of worker.
- Farms map and analyze the workflows for each production site to identify jobs and corresponding responsibility with possible focal points of abuse.
- Farms publish and communicate to all employees and workers clear decisions about:
 - Organizational policy on an abuse free work place;
 - Sanctions and corrective actions;
 - Policy for the empowerment of women in different levels of the organization, including equal opportunities when appointing lower and upper management positions.
- Farms establish mechanism to address vulnerable people issues. Mechanisms may include [but are not limited to]:
 - well-trained and functional gender committee; to address any complaints regarding abuse and harassment.
 - frequent training for all workers, targeted particularly at staff that plays a specific role in the complaints procedure;
 - sexual harassment complaints procedures are monitored and evaluated periodically.
- Use of any form of, or threat of, monetary fines and penalties as a means to maintain labor discipline is prohibited, including for poor performance or for violating company rules, regulations, and policies.
 - This includes the fact to prohibit the use or access to food, water, toilets, canteens, medical care or health clinics.
 - It also covers the non-use of physical violence, including slaps, pushes or any other forms of physical contact as a means to maintain labor discipline and the no use of any form of verbal violence, including screaming, yelling, or the use of threatening, demeaning, or insulting language.
- For tea operations in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe; please consult the Rainforest Alliance Policy for Additional Social Auditing Methods for Sexual and Psychological Violence against Women.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.3



All forms of discrimination in labor, hiring, training, task assignment, labor benefits, promotion policies and procedures, and other opportunities for better conditions, pay, or advancement are prohibited, including any distinction, exclusion or preference to invalidate or harm equality of opportunity or treatment in employment; and different pay to men and women for work of equal value.

According to ILO Conventions 100 and 111

- Objective** Treat all workers, employees, suppliers and other actors involved equally.
- General Guidance**
- All actors involved in the farm’s activities are treated equally. There is no distinction, exclusion or preference based on any condition or characteristic of people that has the effect of avoiding or harming equal opportunity in employment, working or hiring conditions (based on the concepts of the International Labor Organization).
 - Discriminatory actions include – among others– not hiring or firing, unequal payment for the same task or verbal harassment.
 - Other actors involved can include [not restricted to]: visitants, external auditors, representatives of local authorities.
 - **Discrimination:** Distinction, exclusion or preference to invalidate or harm equality of opportunity or treatment in employment including:
 - Race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender, caste, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin;
 - Nationality or migratory status;
 - Civil status;
 - Medical condition;
 - Family condition, including pregnant women and parents with children, or any other protected status as included in applicable laws;
 - Worker organization membership or being an organizer;
 - Having filed complaints within the complaints or grievance mechanisms;
 - Unequal opportunities for gender when appointing management positions;
 - Political, religious, social, sexual or cultural opinions and convictions, views or affiliations of workers.
 - Further details on Discrimination can be consulted in:
 - ILO. (1951). *Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100)*. Available at: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_II_o_Code:C100
 - ILO. (1958). *Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111)*. Available at: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C111



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.4



Workers have the right to establish and join worker organizations of their own free choice without influence or interference by farm management, owners or group administrators. Worker organizations operate without interference or influence by farm management, owners or group administrators. Workers have the right to collectively negotiate the elements of their employment conditions into a collective bargaining agreement. Workers are fully protected against acts of discrimination or retaliation for reasons of affiliation.

i NOT APPLICABLE TO SMALLHOLDERS

Freedom of Association according to ILO Convention 87, Collective Bargaining according to ILO Convention 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organize and to Bargain Collectively

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Objective | Actively support the right of workers to freely organize and negotiate their working conditions. |
| General Guidance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any worker may freely select an organization to defend his or her labor rights as member or affiliate of a worker organization. This organization makes decisions with full independence from the farm management or group administrator. • Farms and group administrators communicate with legally recognized worker organizations and allow them to fulfill their tasks of defending workers rights, within the framework of applicable laws. These worker organizations might be functioning at the local, national or regional level. • Activities of worker organizations are not prevented and free access to the organization's representatives to the farm's or group administrator's properties is guaranteed. • Worker organizations have the right to freely write their constitutions and rules, elect their representatives, organize their administration and activities and develop and implement their positions and programs. Worker organizations have the right to affiliate with national and international worker organizations. • Full independence means being protected against any acts of interference from the farm management or group administrator in the worker organization's establishment, functioning or administration including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Acts designed to promote the establishment of workers' organizations under the domination or interference of employers or employers' organizations; 2) Financial or other support to worker organizations with the object of placing such organizations under the control of employers or employers' organizations. |



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General Guidance

- Negotiations between farm management and worker organizations with respect to the regulation of terms and conditions of employment are enabled by means of Collective Bargaining Agreements
- In the case of employers with a number of employees less than the minimum required by applicable law to create a worker organization, other effective communication mechanisms between workers and the farm management or group administrator are implemented.
- Acts of discrimination for reasons of affiliation with worker organizations include dismissal of or prejudice against a worker because of his/her membership, and participation in worker organization activities.
- Enrollment or participation in worker organizations is voluntary, and workers are not forced to join such organizations.
- Further details on Worker Organizations and Collective Bargaining can be consulted in:
 - ILO. (1948). *Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention* (No. 87). Available at: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312232
 - ILO. (1949). *Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention* (No. 98). Available at: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312243
- For banana and pineapple operations in Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua y Panama, please consult the Rainforest Alliance Policy on Additional Auditing Methods for Freedom of Association for High Risk Countries and Sectors.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.5



All workers receive no less than the legal minimum wage or wages negotiated collectively, whichever is higher. For production, quota or piece work, the established pay rate allows workers to earn at least a minimum wage compared to a 48-hour standard working week of a similar task. If under these conditions, the piecework rate does not meet the minimum wage, then the wage level is upgraded to at least the minimum wage. No more than 30% of the required minimum wage is paid in-kind.

If wages are negotiated voluntarily between employers and workers' organizations, those negotiated wage amount(s) apply to all workers covered under the negotiated agreement. Management-required training takes place during normal working hours and is fully compensated.

Workers are not charged, nor is pay deducted, to cover the cost of tools, equipment or gear required for performance of worker duties.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Objective | Assure the workers receive a fair wage, as endorsed by labor law or collective bargaining agreements. |
| General Guidance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legal minimum wage corresponds to the highest official minimum wage defined and published by the respective government authority for a specific task or occupation. • All workers are registered indicating worker name, gender, hire date, job type or description, number of regular working hours per period, and their gross and net pay for regularly worked hours. • If the applicable law permits remuneration to be paid by in-kind payments, these reflect the market prices of in-kind items, but this in-kind proportion never exceeds 30%. • The valuation of in kind payments is on fair terms and realistically reflects the market prices of items. • Unless legislation makes in kind payments mandatory for employers, it remains the worker's right to be fully paid in cash and reject in kind payment. • Only exception applies for those cases where there is a written wage agreement between the administration, trade unions and workers that does not reach the legal minimum; and such agreements are recognized by the local/national government. |



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.6



The worst forms of child labor are prohibited, including:

- a) Work harmful to children;
- b) Any type of paid or unpaid work by a child under the age of 15 years old, except tasks that are traditional for children in the location and are undertaken for the purpose of encouraging the family's or local culture;
- c) Young workers' work during legally compulsory school hours;
- d) Young workers' work of more than eight hours per day and more than 48 hours per week;
- e) Young workers' work schedule not permitting minimum consecutive period of 12 hours' overnight rest, and at least one full day of rest for every six consecutive days worked;
- f) All forms of forced, compulsory, or slave labor or discrimination;
- g) Sale and trafficking of children;
- h) Use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- i) Use, procuring or offering of a child for other illicit activities.

ILO Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention No. 182

Objective Assure the protection of minors' health and safety and their right to education and integral development.

- General Guidance**
- This criterion applies to all minors below 18 years old.
 - Children may participate in tasks that are traditional to children in the operations' region and that are undertaken for the purpose of transmission of the family's or local culture; in such cases, children must be always supervised by an adult member of their family, and these tasks do not deprive them from their fundamental rights (education, health, integrity and safety).
 - Consult the section "Child Labor Remediation" of the 2017 Certification Rules for reentry conditions after having violated critical criterion 4.6 (available in Annex 3 of this document)
 - Work harmful to children: Work that may harm children's' health, safety or morals, including:
 - a) Handling of pesticides, hazardous substances or residues;
 - b) Operating, assisting to operate, or cleaning power machinery or tools;
 - c) Activities requiring physical exertion beyond the child's safe capacity, such as heavy lifting of loads greater than 20% of a minor's body weight;
 - d) Work on steep slopes of more than 50%, near cliffs or drop-offs, or on roofs or ladders;
 - e) Work in storage areas, silos and construction sites; and
 - f) Night work.
 - Further details on Child Labor can be consulted in ILO. (1999). *Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182)*. Available at: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_I_NSTRUMENT_ID:312327:NO



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.7



If young workers are contracted, records for each young worker are kept, including: First and last name; reliable proof of date of birth; parent(s) or legal guardian(s) first and last name and domicile or place of contact; young worker's permanent residence; school registration and attendance statuses; parent(s) or legal guardian(s) consent and authorization for the young worker's employment; type of assigned work or tasks; and number of daily and weekly working hours.

ILO Minimum Age Convention No. 138

Objective Assure the protection of minors' health and safety and their right to education and integral development.

General Guidance

- Applies to any type of operation.
- Some countries do not allow work by any minor at all; in cases where applicable law is different or stricter, the law applies and the management is able to demonstrate actions for their compliance. (see Critical Criteria 1.6).
- In absence of birth certificate or registration copy (certified, notarized or sealed), reliable proofs of date birth are:
 - i. Passport
 - ii. School registration/record with birthdate;
 - iii. Immunization, vaccination or other public health record with birthdate;
 - iv. Baptismal or other official church/religious institution's registration/document with birthdate;
 - v. Family bible entries that demonstrate that all family births have been recorded for at least two previous generations;
 - vi. Private doctor's notarized, certified or sealed statement that the minor has been under their care for a stated period and that based upon facts related to their service relationship with the youth and her/his family the doctor or officer knows or estimates that the youth is of her/his stated age.
- Further details on Child Labor can be consulted in ILO. (1973). *Minimum Age Convention (No. 138)*. Available at: <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100 INSTRUMENT ID:312283:NO>



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.8



The farm management and group administrator do not engage in arrangements or practices designed to eliminate or reduce pay and benefits due to workers such as employing contract or temporary workers for permanent or ongoing tasks.

- Objective** Provide a stable and fair contractual framework for any worker that assures payments and benefits as defined by applicable law.
- General Guidance**
- Temporary and permanent workers are granted legal labor benefits regarding working conditions, compensation, schedule, and provided infrastructure.
 - The formation of professional service structures for workers are only permitted if these provide all labor benefits as defined by applicable law.
 - Arrangements and practices to reduce workers benefits include mechanisms to repeatedly hire workers on a short-term basis for permanent tasks (“hire-fire”), tenant farm arrangements or the formation of professional service or consultancy structures.
 - Hire-fire situations refers to hiring only for the period that allows firing without payment of benefits and then re-hiring again.

CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.9

The farm management and group administrator implement complaints or grievance mechanisms to protect workers’ rights. Workers also have the right to object to their received payment and have their objections reviewed and decided with decisions being documented. Workers are not subject to employment termination, retribution, or threats as a consequence of utilizing the complaint or grievance mechanism. The farm management and group administrator inform workers of the right to access external complaint and grievance mechanisms, including Rainforest Alliance accredited Certification Bodies, the Rainforest Alliance or local authorities.

- Objective** Facilitate accessible and effective mechanisms for workers to protect their rights.
- General Guidance**
- Workers are aware of the existing grievance mechanisms and how to use them.
 - Complaints are responded to individually. All complaints and responses to complaints are documented.
 - The use of these mechanisms by workers does not lead to distinction, exclusion or preference to invalidate or harm equality of opportunity or treatment in employment when having filed complaints within the complaints or grievance mechanisms.
 - The mechanism is periodically evaluated for their effectiveness. The mechanisms results are periodically analyzed by the farms and corrective actions at the system level applied.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.10



Regular working hours of all workers do not exceed 48 hours per week, with at least one full day of rest for every six consecutive days worked. Workers receive one meal period break for every six hours worked.

Objective Enable physical and mental recovery for workers through regular breaks for meals and enough free time.

- General Guidance**
- Applies to any type of operation.
 - In the case of management positions and security guards, exceptions as defined by the local labor legislation apply.
 - See the Rainforest Alliance Policy on Working Hours for more details on exceptions and conditions

CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.11



All overtime is voluntary. Overtime does not result in a work week exceeding 60 total hours, except under extraordinary circumstances. All overtime is paid at the rate required by applicable law or as collectively negotiated, whichever is higher. In absence of applicable law for higher overtime pay, overtime is paid at 1.5 times the regular wage level.

Objective Assure that overtime is paid justly, is voluntary and not part of the routine work dynamics.

- General Guidance**
- Applies to any type of operation.
 - Exceptions are only granted if: harvest can be lost; infrastructure, machines, cattle or crop plants are at imminent risk; additional workers cannot be hired or their work cannot be suspended because of the mentioned risks of significant losses.; and at the same time accident rates are not higher during overtime work that during regular work hours.
 - Each exception period does not exceed two consecutive work weeks. No more than two exception periods are allowed each year.
 - In the case of cyclical harvesting or production peaks, an analysis indicates that the cost of directly contracting more workers during this period would have a negative impact on the operation's economic sustainability.
 - See the Rainforest Alliance Policy on Working Hours for more details on exceptions and conditions



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.12



Farmers, workers, and their families are afforded access to potable water through one of the following means:

- a) Access to a public potable water system is provided.
- b) Potable water provided by the farm management and group administrator complies with Rainforest Alliance safe drinking water parameters based on testing preceding each certification audit and any time that new water contamination risks have occurred. Potable water sources are protected and water distribution mechanisms are maintained to avoid contamination.
- c) In the case of smallholder groups, the group administrator implements and documents a training program to instruct smallholder members on potable water treatments, such as boiling, filtering or chlorinating and the prevention of water contamination.

Objective Provide water without acute or chronic health effects.

- General Guidance**
- Other treatment methods include: ozonation, aeration, chemical coagulation, activated carbon adsorption, ion exchange or membrane processes.
 - Rainforest Alliance safe drinking water parameters are only applicable if water is provided directly by the farm management or group administrator. If potable water is provided by access to public systems, no water analysis needs to be provided, since the responsibility to provide safe drinking water lies within the public drinking water administration.
 - For operations in India, please consult the Rainforest Alliance Policy on India potable water and housing requirements for the 2017 Sustainable Agriculture Standard.
 - For operations in Brazil, please consult the Rainforest Alliance Policy on Water pH requirements.

Specific Guidance



- Group administrator take into account their member farms characteristics and conditions to adapt the training programs.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.13



When the farm management and group administrator provide housing to workers and their families, it includes:

- a) Absence of rats, mice, insects and vermin, or conditions that favor their populations that could cause disease or carry parasites that function as vectors of diseases;
- b) Dry floors;
- c) Protection against rain, wind or cold weather conditions;
- d) No conditions posing imminent threats to the health or security of the occupants;
- e) A register of workers and family members that live in management provided housing;
- f) Separate beds for each worker;
- g) Doors with locking mechanism.

Objective Eradicate worst forms of housing that may put into risk the inhabitants' health and safety.

- General Guidance**
- This criterion only applies to housing that farms provide to workers or other authorized residents; meaning that it only covers those inhabitants authorized by the farms to occupy the housing infrastructure.
 - This criterion does not cover either housing owned by workers or smallholders.
 - Unauthorized or unsanctioned extensions or modifications to originally provided housing are excluded from the scope of this criterion.
 - Farm management or group administrator's responsibility is to provide housing in compliance with the 2017 Standard requirements, and to provide conditions and training on how to avoid rats, mosquitoes and other vermin infestations. It is the inhabitants' responsibility to keep these conditions right. A certified organization is not to be penalized if it has provided their workers with good conditions and training, and its workers have failed to keep such conditions.
 - Imminent threats to the health or security of the occupants are: deficient structural conditions that can lead to severe injury or death in case of earthquakes or fire (no structural safety).
 - Requirement about separate beds refers to ILO Workers' Housing Recommendation No. 115; whose objective is to prevent that non family-related workers have to share a bed against their will. Criteria does not imply that couples or their kids cannot share their beds; but it does prevent that unrelated adult workers have to share theirs.
 - For operations in India, please consult the Rainforest Alliance Policy on India potable water and housing requirements for the 2017 Sustainable Agriculture Standard.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.14



The farm management and group administrator develop and implement an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) plan. The OHS plan is based on a risk analysis developed by a competent professional or organization and identifies and characterizes biological, physical and chemical hazards by job types or physically demanding tasks. The OHS plan describes and rates risks in terms of the frequency of potential occurrence and the potential danger or impact, and indicates the communication, training, equipment, or procedures, including medical exams and first aid, needed to prevent or reduce those risks rated as high to worker health or the health of other people on the farm or group administrator facilities. The farm management and group administrator designate a qualified OHS officer responsible for ensuring the implementation of the OHS plan.

Objective Protect the health and safety of the workers, residents and visitors by implementing a risk-based Occupational Health and Safety plan.

- General Guidance**
- Competent professional or organization is someone with OHS risk analysis experience or who has managed OHS as previously, but not necessarily an accredited OHS professional.
 - Risks are identified and characterized based on the frequency of potential occurrence and the potential danger or impact (degree of injury, including mortality). Risks are categorized by:
 1. Biological, physical, and chemical risk types: environmental conditions of the work place, potential exposure, and possible consequences, emergencies for extreme weather events;
 2. Tasks or activities that are physically demanding; contact with or handling of flammable or hazardous materials; working with moving machinery or on slippery surfaces, elevated positions or steep slopes.
 - The health and safety plan is implemented through actions such as:
 1. Procedures and instructions to activities associated with high risks (including providing workers with Personal Protective Equipment);
 2. Training activities, safety procedures, equipment and tools provided to all workers according to the risk category;
 3. Medical exams to those workers occupied with high risk tasks.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.15



Functional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in accordance with the product's MSDS, safety tag or other instructions, whichever are more stringent, is provided free of cost to workers. All persons who mix or handle pesticides, fertilizers, hazardous materials, or other chemical substances or natural pest control substances with possible dermatological or microbiological risks use PPE. Substances listed in the *Rainforest Alliance List of Pesticides for Use with Risk Mitigation* as having inhalation risks may be used only if restricted entry intervals are enforced and respirators with an organic vapor (OV) cartridge or canister with any N, R, P, or 100 series pre-filter are used, and only if all application sites are flagged to indicate inhalation risks to bystanders.

Objective Minimize workers' exposure to chemical substances through use of Personal Protective Equipment that is in accordance with the product's toxicity.

- General Guidance**
- Applies to any type of operation.
 - Damaged or worn equipment is replaced or repaired and gloves, boots, masks and respirators fit the user's body.
 - Restricted Entry Intervals are defined in criterion 4.35 (Level C), but apply to inhalation risk pesticides as a critical criterion.
 - Farms establish mechanisms to assure that all workers mentioned above use PPE, such as: training programs, sanctions and incentives.
 - Examples of recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) can be found in:
 - <https://www.pesticidewise.com/> *
 - <http://dresscode.bayer.com/> *

** These sites are mentioned just as examples for illustrative purpose. Rainforest Alliance has no association/relationship to these sites or the companies/organization in charge of them. The information in these pages is not binding nor is accepted as replacement for the instructions contained in the MSDS.*



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.16



The farm management trains all workers and the group administrator trains all group members or their representatives that handle or come into contact with pesticides or other substances posing potential health risks. Training is conducted by a competent professional on safer management of these substances and includes:

- a) Occupational health topics specific to chemical handlers as defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Plan.
- b) An explanation of the names, formulations, toxicity, health risks, and other relevant MSDS information related to all substances to be applied.
- c) Techniques for correct handling of these substances.
- d) Correct use of PPE.
- e) Preventative measures for reducing possible damage to health and the environment caused by these substances.
- f) Emergency procedures, first aid and medical attention for cases involving poisoning or undue contact with these substances.

Objective Reduce the risks of pesticides or other substances posing potential health risks to the health and safety of handlers.

General Guidance

- Workers do not apply, mix, transport or otherwise manipulate pesticides without having been trained in the topics indicated in this criterion.
- Training records and pesticide handler interviews demonstrate that all workers that come into contact with pesticides or natural pest control substances with health risks are trained and demonstrate competences to handle these substances.
- Workers demonstrate the effectiveness of their training by the correct use of personal protective equipment and best practices of handling these substances, and they demonstrate knowledge regarding the other topics mentioned in this criterion.
- The training program has components specifically designed for the workers' activities, such as mixing and applying agrochemicals using personal protective equipment and the correct handling of these substances.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.17



Bathing facilities are provided to all handlers of pesticides or other substances posing potential health risks. These handlers bathe and change their clothes after finishing the daily application schedule and before leaving the workplace at the end of the workday. All PPE for workers is washed and stored on the farm or group administrator facilities, and does not enter workers' housing.

Objective Wash off agrochemical residues with possible negative health effects for pesticide handlers.

General Guidance All pesticide handlers shower and change their clothes after finishing the daily application schedule and before leaving the workplace at the end of the workday.

Specific Guidance



- Provides water and soap for the bathing process of the pesticide handlers and a site that provides privacy.



- Central facilities have showers and changing rooms that assure privacy and enable workers to remove of PPE.
- Central facilities have has separate areas for washing or storing Personal Protective Equipment and pesticide application equipment.
- For spraying teams that attend several smallholdings or member farms per day, the group administrator provides water, soap, towels and bags to enable bathing in the field.



- Showers and changing rooms that assure privacy and enable workers to remove of PPE.

CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.18



Women who are pregnant, nursing or have recently given birth are not assigned to activities that pose risk to the woman's, fetus's or infant's health. In cases of job reassignment, there is no reduction in remuneration.

Objective Protect the health of the fetus or infant and pregnant or nursing women.

- General Guidance**
- Applies to any type of operation.
 - Remuneration is not reduced even if the new task usually implies a lower pay rate than the woman's original task.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.19



Legitimate right to use the land is demonstrated by ownership, leasehold, or other legal documents or by documentation of traditional or community use rights. Right to use the land is not legitimately disputed by current or former local residents or communities, including in relation to past dispossession or forced abandonment. In the event of land conflict, legitimate right may be demonstrated if a conflict resolution process has been implemented, documented, and accepted by the affected parties.

Objective Protect legitimate land use right.

- General Guidance**
- Dispossession: action of armed groups, its representatives or related opportunists to achieve the sale, delivery or evacuation of a property by the legitimate owner, holder or occupant taking advantage of the victims' vulnerability. Examples of dispossession are when owners are obliged to sell the property at low prices given the circumstances of social violence or pressure, or when corrupt government officials participate in the property's transfer through the falsification of documents or signatures.
 - Forced abandonment: Situation in which the victim is obliged to leave its property to protect its family's life, freedom and integrity and results in the impossibility to use the property.

CRITICAL

CRITERION 4.20



Activities diminishing the land or resource use rights or collective interests of communities are conducted only after having received the communities' free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). The farm management and group administrator implement complaints or grievance mechanisms to protect community members' rights. If the farm management and group administrator diminish communities' land or resource use rights, mutually agreed compensation commensurate with the loss of use is negotiated with and provided to communities as part of the FPIC process. The farm management and group administrator fully document the FPIC process, including maps developed through the participatory process that indicate the location, boundaries, and planned uses of lands and other resources over which communities have legal, customary, or user rights.

i NOT APPLICABLE TO SMALLHOLDERS

Objective Consider the communities' opinion and consent before conducting activities that could diminish their rights. Facilitate accessible and effective mechanisms for communities to support the protection of their rights.

- General Guidance**
- Full documentation of the FPIC process evidence that all affected groups were identified and included; communities understood their right to reject proposed plans on their lands; and that plans were developed based on consultation with all affected groups.
 - For further information, consult the Rainforest Alliance Guide for Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS & WAGES

LEVEL C

CRITERION 4.21



The farm management's and group administrator's payment procedures guarantee the complete payment to workers of all of their wages due, including for overtime work. Payments are made on the date, in the place, and with the frequency specified by collectively negotiated agreements or worker contracts.

Objective Assure that workers receive salaries on time and proportional to the time invested in work, as specified in their labor agreement.

- General Guidance**
- Payment takes place at the workplace, or by another arrangement agreed upon with the worker.
 - Workers receive a detailed explanation of the wages paid and of any deductions made. In cases where the worker is unable to read this document, the document contents are explained verbally.
 - Worked hours and pay rates are recorded for each worker for the type of work performed. For piece rates or production work, workers' output or production in agreed upon units and the pay rate is recorded.
 - Verbal agreements are valid arrangements for smallholders and their temporary or partial workers and smaller farms with less than 10 employees, if permitted by law.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 4.22



The farm management and group administrator inform all workers offered employment in their native language about all terms of work, covering labor policies, procedures, rules and conditions either as stated in a collective bargaining agreement (where implemented) or as contained in the employer's proposed labor agreement.

Objective Explain transparently all conditions of work and achieve that all workers fully understand their labor agreements.

- General Guidance**
- Verbal agreements are valid arrangements for smallholders and their temporary or partial workers and smaller farms with less than 10 employees, if permitted by law.
 - The labor agreement covers: job description, working hours, pay rate, overtime regulation, benefits and deductions, annual paid vacation leave, protection from loss of pay in the case of illness, disability or accident, sanction and grievance procedures, and the notice period for contract termination.



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LEVEL B

CRITERION 4.23



All workers receive at least two weeks of paid vacation leave per year (10 days based on a five-day work week or 12 days based on a six-day work week) with pro-rating for part-time or seasonal workers.

i NOT APPLICABLE TO SMALLHOLDERS

Objective Enable physical and mental recovery for workers through vacations.

General Guidance

- Applies to all workers, including permanent workers and all other hired worker types also, such as temporary, documented, undocumented, migrant, and transitory, and also persons temporarily absent from a job or enterprise at which they recently worked for reasons of illness, parental leave, holiday, training, or industrial dispute.
- Workers do not forego vacations in order to be paid the vacation days.
- Prorate means “to divide, distribute, or assess proportionately”



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LEVEL B

CRITERION 4.24

The farm management and group administrator develop and implement a child labor prevention and monitoring plan after considering the results of consultations with community members and minors.

Objective Contribute to the prevention and monitoring of child labor at the neighboring communities' level.

General Guidance During the development of the plan, the following aspects are considered:

- Applicable laws, such as local child labor laws in agriculture for those under 18 years old.
- Discussion of worst forms of child labor, including hazardous work, from which all those under eighteen years old should be protected.
- Reduction of childhood occupational diseases which may reduce their longevity or quality of life (e.g., picking tobacco=airborne tobacco plant inhalations; effects of stoop labor on backs and breathing; effects of working in pesticide-sprayed fields).
- Reduction of temporary or permanent injuries (e.g., falling from heights/trees; tractor accidents as bystander or driver; handling/maintaining/cleaning sharp implements (e.g. machetes) or power tools or machinery.
- Importance of education for future of children in getting higher paid jobs to afford the basic necessities for her-himself and her-his family and to offer a variety of occupation and location choices.
- Importance of free playtime for children's development to mature, experience the culture of the community, learn socialization skills and take on minor, safe household chores.

Events with community members and minors:

- Are designed as participatory activities, e.g. minors, parents, farmers, smallholders train or inform each other.
- Incorporate interactive, participant-centric and visually based learning techniques, to avoid theoretical or unrelated to participants' experiences.
- Include eyewitness/participant narratives of their experiences in the fields, those they have seen or heard about from others.
- Are held annually, to incorporate new children, parents or smallholders.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 4.25



Pregnant women who are active workers receive fully-paid maternity leave of at least 12 weeks before or after birth, with at least six of these weeks being taken after birth.

i NOT APPLICABLE TO SMALLHOLDERS

Objective Favor women's' good physical conditions and physical recovery from birth and facilitate maximum time of the newborn with its mother.

General Guidance

- Applicable for both permanent and temporary workers.
- In cases where the requirements of applicable law are different than the Rainforest Alliance Standard's, the strictest set of rules apply

LEVEL B

CRITERION 4.26



The farm management and group administrator offer women who are pregnant, nursing or have recently given birth flexible working schedules or work site arrangements.

Objective Favor good care of the newborn by its mother after maternity leave.

General Guidance Flexible work arrangements include flexible work schedules, work from home, and sites that provides privacy for nursing purposes.

LEVEL A

CRITERION 4.27



The farm management and group administrator increase inflation-adjusted cash wages at least annually.

Objective Maintain the purchasing power of the salary levels and compensate for inflation.

General Guidance

- Salary increases are additional to the inflation adjustments.
- Inflation adjustments to wages are based on the national cost of living index or other locally applicable official inflation reports.
- If the applicable law permits remuneration to be paid by in-kind payments, these reflect the market prices of in-kind items, but this in-kind proportion never exceeds 30%.
- The valuation of in kind payments is on fair terms and realistically reflects the market prices of items.
- If wages already are at the living wage benchmark, no further wage increases are necessary.

LIVING WAGE - ESSENTIAL NEEDS FOR WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

LEVEL C

CRITERION 4.28



When the farm management and group administrator provide housing to workers, or workers with their families, this housing meets the following conditions:

- a) Beds are not arranged in more than two levels;
- b) Natural light during the daytime and artificial light for the nighttime;
- c) Natural ventilation that ensures movement of air in all conditions of weather and climate;
- d) Functional and effective fire wood smoke evacuation or ventilation mechanisms well maintained or repaired;
- e) Non-leaking windows, doors and roofs;
- f) At least one toilet for every 15 persons, one urinal for every 25 men, one washbasin for every six persons or per family;
- g) At least one shower per 10 persons, separated by gender;
- h) At least one large laundry sink for every 30 persons;
- i) Installed and maintained fire extinguishing mechanisms;
- j) Marked safety exits.

ILO Guidance on Workers' Housing Recommendation 1961 (No. 115)

Objective	Provide privacy, good hygiene conditions, a smoke-free environment and basic safety to inhabitants.
General Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further details on housing can be consulted at ILO (1961). Workers Housing Recommendation. Available at: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID,P12100_LANG_CODE:312453,en:NO • Laundry sinks are acceptable instead of washbasin, especially in rural contexts, as long as they work properly (have clean water) and have basic hygienic conditions. • Is not necessary to have one fire extinguisher per house, as long as fire suppression mechanisms are available, functional and nearby in case of fire, and workers and their families know how to use them. The same applies for emergency exits in single units, as long as there are protocols in place in case of emergency, and workers and their families can exit the infrastructure and know where to go. • For operations in India, please consult the Rainforest Alliance Policy on India potable water and housing requirements for the 2017 Sustainable Agriculture Standard.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 4.29



If a living wage benchmark is provided, the farm management and group administrator document and implement a living wage plan, to progress towards payment of living wage. In absence of a living wage benchmark, the farm management and group administrator assess current access of workers and their families to health care and basic education and develop and implement a plan for providing access to these services.

Objective Design a financially feasible plan to progress towards payment of living wage to workers.

- General Guidance**
- For scenarios where there is a established GLWC living wage benchmark, farm and group administration develops and implement a financially feasible plan to increase workers' salaries within a set timeframe towards that benchmark. The wage increase goal can be lower than the living wage benchmark, if justified financially.
 - For scenarios where a GLWC living wage benchmark does not yet exist for the specific country or region, farm and group administration develops and implement a plan to provide access to health care and basic education. Options include: enabling participation in private health schemes, supporting visits of nurses, doctors or teachers at farm or group level, and providing infrastructure for their work; or where there are public services available, enable inscription or enrollment and transport.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 4.30



When the farm management and group administrator provide housing to workers, or workers with their families, this housing meets the following conditions:

- a) Sleeping space is at least:
 - i. For rooms with two persons: 7.5 square meters (m²);
 - ii. For rooms with three persons: 11.5 m²;
 - iii. For rooms with four persons: 14.5 m²;
 - iv. If a room accommodates more than four persons, the floor area is at least 3.6 m² per person;
 - v. When workers reside with their family, living space per family group is at least 30 m².
- b) Sealed floors;
- c) Space for belongings;
- d) Headroom is of not less than 203 centimeters for full and free movement;
- e) Cooking facilities;
- f) Toilets are designed to maximize safety for women and children, including good sight lines to latrines, privacy structures with locks and well-lit toilet areas.

- Objectives**
- Assure housing conditions that provide enough space for inhabitants and their belongings, floors that enable hygienic and healthy living conditions, and facilities to prepare meals.
 - Provide for additional security to avoid possible abuse of women or children on their way to toilets.



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LEVEL B

CRITERION 4.31

The farm management and group administrator provide access to health care and basic education to all workers.

Objective Enable professional care in case of illnesses and basic literacy to all workers and their families.

LEVEL A

CRITERION 4.32

When the farm management and group administrator provide housing to workers, or workers with their families, with their families, they provide areas for recreation and drying clothes. For permanent workers residing with their family, housing provides at least one toilet, one shower, and one laundry sink per family. Non-family worker housing provides at least one toilet for every six persons.

Objective Assure optimum living conditions for workers and their families.

LEVEL A

CRITERION 4.33

If a living wage benchmark is provided, the farm management and group administrator pay a living wage to all workers. Payment may include in-kind remuneration, pursuant to the plan (see C 4.29).

Objective Enable all workers to cover their essential needs as defined by the GLWC for the respective living wage.

General Guidance

- The in-kind portion of the living wage does not exceed 30%.
- The provision of transport counts into the in-kind portion of living wage, as well as food or housing provisions.



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OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

LEVEL C

CRITERION 4.34



An Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) committee is chosen by workers for farms or group administrators with 20 or more workers. The committee participates in or carries out regular OHS reviews and its findings and decisions are considered in the updating and implementation of the OHS plan. Committee decisions and associated activities are documented.

Objective Support functional implementation of the OHS plan with consideration of workers' opinions and work realities.

- General Guidance**
- Workers are aware of how the committee works and who is their representative.
 - Farms can demonstrate that the committee was chosen by workers.
 - There is evidence that the committee meets in a regular basis and there is evidence of the review and decision making processes.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 4.35



Farms implement Restricted Entry Intervals (REI) for persons entering pesticide application areas without PPE that are at least 12 hours or as stipulated in the product's MSDS, label or security tag. For WHO class II products, the REI is at least 48 hours or as stipulated in the product's MSDS, label or security tag. When two or more products with different REIs are used at the same time, the longest interval applies.

Objective Minimize contact of workers and bystanders to pesticides after their application.

- General Guidance**
- MSDS refers to the Material Safety Data Sheet of each pesticide.
 - Farms provide evidence or records of the implementation of REI, such as application records with annotations on REI; warning signs on application areas, etc.
 - Workers are familiar with the concept of REI and can explain how this affects their work activities.
 - Farms has a mechanism in place to notify of REI on application areas.



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LEVEL C

CRITERION 4.36



The farm management and group administrator test cholinesterase levels of pesticide handlers who handle WHO Class II or III organophosphates or carbamates. Tests are conducted prior to the first time workers apply these substances on the farm and periodically thereafter as long as they remain assigned to this task. The farm management and group administrator offer other work that does not involve use of these chemicals to those pesticide handlers with results outside of the accepted cholinesterase levels.

Objective Prevent negative health effects for handlers of organophosphate or carbamate pesticides.

General Guidance

- WHO: World Health Organization
- This criterion applies for applications of: Oxamyl, Ethoprop and Terbufos. This Criterion also applies when smallholders and farm owners use these substances. Use of organophosphate and carbamate is linked to full compliance with the *Rainforest Alliance Procedure for Exceptional Pesticide Use*.
- The following organophosphates are not WHO class I and therefore not prohibited:
 - Class II: Diazinon, chlorpyrifos, azamethiphos, fenitrothion, phosmet
 - Class III: Malathion, tetrachlorvinphos.
- The following carbamates are not WHO class I and therefore not prohibited:
 - Class II: Carbaryl, fenobucarb.
- Pesticide handlers are asked if they used other organophosphates or carbamates before to assure that the cholinesterase activity baseline will be correct. Testing takes place one month after the beginning of the organophosphate or carbamate application and could be less frequently hereafter depending on the results and the frequency of exposure of each worker. Local law may apply for testing frequency and procedures. Acceptable cholinesterase level is baseline result minus 25%
- The Rainforest Alliance Medical Exams Guide for Workers who Handle Organophosphates or Carbamates, provides further guidance on how to conduct the cholinesterase levels test.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 4.37



When workers are diagnosed with temporary health conditions or have short-term disabilities that impair their ability to carry out their job, the farm management and group administrator reassign these workers for the length of the disability period to a different work task without penalty or a decrease in compensation.

Objective Relocate ill workers to other tasks to avoid any further health complications and assuring they do not suffer any income reduction for such relocation.

General Guidance

- If public health insurances cover costs of sick-leave time, then this tariff is acceptable.



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LEVEL C

CRITERION 4.38



Workshops, storage areas, and processing facilities are designed for safe and secure storage of materials and equipped and identified in accordance with the type of stored substances and materials, are clean and organized, and have sufficient light and ventilation, equipment for firefighting, and means to adequately remediate any substance or spillage of materials.

Objective Prevent misuse of materials and equipment and avoid accidents or intoxication linked to hazardous materials.

- General Guidance**
- All hazards and hazardous areas are identified by warning signs that indicate the type of hazard and any necessary precautionary measures.
 - Fuels and other flammable substances, Personal Protective Equipment, or food are not stored with pesticides, fertilizers or other hazardous materials.
 - Chemical containers and application equipment are stored in dry, well ventilated conditions and protected from sunlight and extreme temperatures.
 - Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for each stored chemical are kept in the storage facility.
 - Workshops, storage buildings and other storage areas are organized and clean. Tools and materials are stored in their designated locations after being used and there are no uncollected spills or waste.
 - Electrical fittings are maintained: there are no worn out or bare cables, uncovered sockets or improvised installations that could cause short circuit or a fire.
 - There are no water leaks, damaged floors, damaged or worn out structures, or any infrastructure that would increase the possibility of accidents.
 - Containers larger than one gallon (3.8 liters) are not stored on top of each other. Materials are stored according to the manufacturers' or suppliers' recommendations to minimize the risk of breakage or spillage.
 - Products are stored separately according to their characteristics. Flammable materials are stored separately from electrical apparatus and other sources of sparks and heat. Personal Protective Equipment is not stored with chemical substances such as pesticides, lubricants or paints.
 - Liquids are kept on shelves covered in plastic, metal or another non-absorbent material. Floors have a one percent slope and there is a retention wall in the different entrances to prevent spilled liquids from escaping the storage area.
 - Storage areas have signs that can be clearly seen and understood and indicate the types of products and their risks.



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LEVEL C

CRITERION 4.39



Only authorized personnel have access to workshops, storage or processing facilities.

Objective Prevent that untrained persons are exposed to hazardous substances or other risks associated to the storage facilities and their contents.

- General Guidance**
- Access to these areas is controlled.
 - Authorized persons and restricted areas are identified.
 - Authorized persons are trained and farms keep records of such trainings.
 - Farms have a procedure in place to receive and escort visitors.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 4.40



First aid equipment is available at the work place for offices, processing areas, and other central facilities and first aid kits are accessible in the field. Designated workers or group members are trained on first aid as specified in the OHS plan.

Objective Attend minor injuries quick and by trained personnel.

- General Guidance**
- Workers are aware of the location and/or person responsible for the first aid kit; and procedures in case of accident.
 - Contents of first aid equipment or first aid kits correspond to the information contained in the Occupational Health and Safety Plan.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 4.41



The farm management and group administrator provide workers with medical examinations as specified in the Occupational Health and Safety plan (see Critical Criterion 4.14). Workers have access to the results of their medical examinations.

Objective Promote the physical integrity of workers through medical exams and treatment applicable to working conditions with risks as identified in the OHS plan.

- General Guidance**
- The types and frequency of medical examinations are based on the risks identified for each job description.
 - Workers who either express or present medical or mental health issues are examined and treated by medical personnel, and have the opportunity to follow any indicated medical treatment or be reassigned to a different work task.



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LEVEL C

CRITERION 4.42



The farm management and group administrator provide emergency showers and eye-washing facilities in or close to workshops, storage areas, and processing facilities where pesticides or other hazardous materials are used or stored.

Objective Wash off pesticides' or other materials' residues quickly from skin or eyes to mitigate possible damage from these substances.

General Guidance

- Eye-washing facilities have soft water streams and may be made of plastic water bottles or other materials available to the farms.
- Emergency showers and eye-washing facilities have a constant supply of water.
- Eye-washing facilities are in the immediate vicinity of where mixing and handling takes place (so the affected person can encounter the facilities even with closed-eyes).

LEVEL C

CRITERION 4.43



Working toilets and washing facilities are available at the work place for offices, processing areas, and other central facilities of farms and group administrators.

Objective Provide hygiene facilities at the work place.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 4.44



The farm management and group administrator document and implement procedures for emergency scenarios (such as natural catastrophes, civil unrest, or fire), provide training, and maintain equipment to minimize harm for each of these emergency scenarios.

Objective Assure trained personnel quickly attend emergencies to reduce loss or damage to people, crop, infrastructure and machinery.

General Guidance

- Personnel are trained and appointed as specialists in emergency response.
- Workers demonstrate knowledge of emergency procedures.
- Possible emergency scenarios include [but are not limited to] extreme weather events, natural catastrophes (lightning strikes, earthquakes, storms, and floods), civil unrest or fire;
- Recommendation is that farms carry out simulations so workers can practice emergency procedures.



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LEVEL A

CRITERION 4.45



Farms provide natural or built shelter for meals and rest during the work period to protect from sunlight, rain and lightning.

- Objective** Protect farm workers against extreme sunlight, storms and lightning.
- General Guidance**
- Farms implement mechanism to provide shelter, such as:
 - Programming of tasks schedules to facilitate access to shelter during breaks.
 - Provide temporary or mobile shelters during rainy season.
 - Shelter for lightning is provided according to the risk level identified in Critical Criterion 4.14

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

LEVEL B

CRITERION 4.46

The farm management and group administrator communicate openly with local communities to identify community concerns and interests related to the farm's or group administrator's operations. The farm management and group administrator develop and implement a system to receive, respond to, and document the resolution of complaints from communities.

- Objective** Identify and consider the local communities' opinions about farm activities that may possibly impact community resources.
- General Guidance**
- Farms identify nearby communities that are or can be affected by the farms operations; and identify local authorities and community leaders to establish clear communication mechanisms.
 - Farms demonstrate the implementation of mechanisms to address complaints, appropriate to the community conditions (i.e.: literacy levels, accessibility), mechanisms can include facilitating the farms telephone number or main contact. Farms can provide evidence on addressing complaints and their follow-up actions.

LEVEL A

CRITERION 4.47

The farm management and group administrator implement and document activities to support identified needs and priorities of the community, such as support for local schools or other institutions, environmental education, or collaboration on emergency preparedness.

- Objective** Broaden the scope of the operations' sustainable practices to further benefit closely communities.

PRINCIPLE 5: SUSTAINABLE CATTLE PRODUCTION

2017 Sustainable Agriculture Standard

CRITICAL

CRITERION 5.1



The farm management and group administrator implement a mechanism to confirm that cattle sold as certified are born and raised on certified farms for their entire lives; or cattle spend at least six months on Rainforest Alliance certified farms and spend all other portions of their lifespan on farms that:

- a) Do not use forced labor; and
- b) Have not legitimately disputed communities' land use rights; and
- c) Have not destroyed forests, protected areas or other natural terrestrial ecosystems subsequent to January 1, 2014.

Objective Assure cattle sold as certified was raised in farms that comply with Rainforest Alliance Standards Critical Criteria.

- General Guidance**
- Farms demonstrate the period that each animal has spent on the farm. Evidence may be [but is not limited to]: purchase records, life records and sale records.
 - When buying animals from another certified farm, the buying-farm requests the animal life record.
 - When buying animals from non-certified farms, the buying-farm evaluates the supplier farms and request the animal's life record and evidence of compliance* with:
 - no use of forced labor;
 - no destruction of forests; and
 - no encroached on indigenous lands or protected areas.

**(subsequent to January 1st, 2014)*
 - Supplier farms evaluations may consist in documental verification or on site verification. Public records, satellite images and information from local authorities and organizations can also be used to verify supplier conformity with this criterion requirements. Valid mechanisms also include consulting on government information such as “black-lists” of farms with issues of forced labor and land-use conflicts.
 - For proof of no deforestation, farms can recur to satellite imagery based tools, such as Global Forest Watch or other with the same or better resolution.
 - Signed declarations from the farm of origin are accepted as proof of compliance.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 5.2



The farm management and group administrator apply an individual animal identification record system for cattle with a unique identification code from birth or purchase until sale or death. Records are maintained for at least one year following sale or death.

Objective Assure cattle's traceability and allows monitoring activities, keeping business records and planning future actions for the farm.

**General
Guidance**

- Individual animal identification may consist, not exclusively, in:
 - a consecutive number
 - a combination of numbers
 - an alphanumeric combination
- Identification may use, but is not restricted to:
 - ear tags
 - microchips
 - tattoos
 - ruminal boluses
- Chemical substances (such as potash) and hot iron methods are not used for branding (*see Critical Criteria 5.4*).
- To sell any animal as certified, the farm is able to identify the individual animal and provide its life record.
- Life records include [at least] information about: birth, purchase, sale or death; and it is recommended to also include information about management practices such as castration, dehorning, disease treatment, sanitary controls, and productivity.

CRITICAL

CRITERION 5.3



The presence of transgenic or cloned animals is prohibited.

Objective Avoid the sale of transgenic and cloned animals as certified cattle.

**General
Guidance**

- No cloned or transgenic cattle is allowed within the certified farm.
- Farm provides evidence of the origins and parental line of each animal, or information about the farm of origin of animals that were bought.
- No animals are purchased from farms that breed from genetically modified or cloned animals.



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CRITICAL

CRITERION 5.4



Mistreatment or abuse of cattle or working animals is prohibited.

Objective Assure the health and welfare of cattle and working animals.

General Guidance

- Practices used to manage cattle and working animals ensure animal welfare.
- Animals are not hit or molested to induce or accelerate movement.
- In case electric pokers are used, workers manipulating them are trained and assure the animal welfare.
- Mistreatment refers to situations in which the animal welfare is compromise.
- Farms do not permit or engage in practices like potash and hot iron branding and penis-deviation.
- Signs of abuse, neglects or cruelty may include but are not limited to:
 - poor body condition and/or noticeable trauma;
 - lack of food, water and/or shelter;
 - lack of sanitation;
 - pest infestations on the animal’s body; and
 - containment facilities that do not permit the animal to exercise or change positions.

CRITICAL

CRITERION 5.5



Cattle are not fed animal or human excrement, animal products or by-products, or feed containing these substances.

Objective Avoid any risks to human, cattle and environmental health.

General Guidance

- Farms are able to provide the ingredients of the animal feed that is provided to cattle, either by etiquettes with product information if feed is purchased, or by formulas if feed is made in-farm
- Animal feed is not made totally or partially from any animal by-product.
- Animal by-products include [but are not limited to]: meat and bone meal, fish meal, feather meal, manure, eggs and hatchery waste.
- Restriction does not apply for harvest and crop residues.



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CRITICAL**CRITERION 5.6**

The administration of the following chemical substances to cattle is prohibited:

- a) Organochlorinated substances;
- b) Anabolics to promote muscle mass increase;
- c) Hormones to stimulate higher production;
- d) Non-therapeutic antibiotics (preventive medication or promotion of higher production);
- e) Clenbuterol, Diethylstilbestrol (DES), Dimetridazole, Glicopeptids, Iprnidazole;
- f) Chloramphenicol, Fluoroquinolones, Furazolidone;
- g) Diclofenac and Aceclofenac.

Objective Assure the health and welfare of cattle and working animals.

- General Guidance**
- Individual animal records include detailed information of medications applied to the animal.
 - Medication records do not contain any of Rainforest Alliance prohibited medications.
 - Antibiotics are administered only when strictly necessary (i.e. surgery, injuries or placenta retention) in order to avoid resistance development.
 - Hormones can only be used to induce estrus in cows and to facilitate embryo transfers. Any other use is not allowed.
 - If local authorities require the farm to use any these substances for the treatment of an specific condition; this is not considered a non-conformity as long as the farm can present the evidence of such requirement.



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LEVEL C

CRITERION 5.7



The farm management and group administrator develop and implement a cattle herd health plan endorsed by a technician trained in animal husbandry or veterinary science, including vaccinations and the monitoring, control and treatment of diseases by veterinarians.

Objective Secure cattle's health and minimize any possible risk in human and environmental health through good practices of sanitary control.

- General Guidance**
- The plan is focused on promoting health rather than treating disease.
 - Disease prevention is a priority in the herd health plan, with emphasis on those diseases or infestations with a high incidence or risk in the region or for the type of management.
 - Records are kept of the administration of veterinary medical products.
 - The vaccination program is in compliance with applicable law. The plan takes into account pre-slaughter/milking withdrawal periods, as instructed in the medications labels.
 - The farm respects the withdrawal periods, and do not withhold treatment in order to preserve an animal's eligibility for the market.
 - Use of veterinary products for pest control is monitored to prevent soil, water or ecosystem contamination.
 - Areas are designated and designed for the isolation and treatment of injured or sick animals.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 5.8



Competent professionals trained in veterinary science monitor animal health. Veterinarians or other legally authorized professionals treat animal diseases.

Objective Assure animal health monitoring programs are in place and performed in an appropriate manner.

- General Guidance**
- Professional(s) in charge of the cattle health monitoring are authorized by national animal health regulatory authorities according to applicable laws.
 - If national animal health regulatory authorities require farms to take advice and veterinary recommendations by non-veterinarian professionals, this situation is not considered a non-conformity.



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LEVEL C

CRITERION 5.9



Medications are recommended by veterinarians or legally authorized professionals and approved by national animal health regulatory authorities, are registered, applied and stored safely and in compliance with label instructions.

Objective Assure that animal medications are appropriate to treat their conditions and that administration of such substances comply with all related regulations.

General Guidance

- Farms keep records of purchased and used substances.
- Records do not show use of any substance prohibited by local law, animal health regulatory authorities or this standard.
- Medication storage facilities are identified and designed to assure safety and prevent access of unauthorized people.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 5.10

Cattle are fed according to the nutritional needs of their life stages. Animals do not present symptoms of malnutrition. Newborn calves are fed with colostrum and consume milk or milk substitutes until their development allows for digestion of fodder.

Objective Provide cattle with a proper nutrition to cover its physiological and production requirements.

General Guidance Animal corporal condition is according to what's expected by its race and life stage.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 5.11

- Water for cattle is continuously available to animals in quantities sufficient to avoid dehydration.
- The farm management and group administrator develop and implement a water quality monitoring plan to comply with Rainforest Alliance parameters for cattle water.

Objective Provide sufficient hydration to cattle with water that does not have acute or chronic negative effects over their health.

General Guidance The plan include regular water analysis to monitor different water sources; and also in case there is suspicion or high risk of contamination (see definition of Water Contamination Risk). Such analysis can be done in the farm or in a laboratory.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 5.12

Animal handling and treatment activities are conducted by trained personnel and reduce fear, stress and pain.

Objective Assure animal welfare practices are in place and performed in an appropriate manner.

General Guidance Workers are trained on how to handle cattle to reduce fear, stress and pain. Farm keeps records of such trainings.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 5.13

Euthanasia is reserved for animals with incurable or terminal diseases, and is swift and painless.

Objective Reduce pain, suffer and stress due to required practices.

General Guidance

- Farms keep records of euthanized animals and their underlying conditions.
- Personnel in charge of euthanasia is trained on how to reduce fear, stress and pain. Farm keeps records of such trainings.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 5.14

Castration of animals is conducted at the earliest age possible, and only by surgical methods or emasculatation. If animals are castrated after two months of age, pain relief medication is applied during and after castration.

Objective Assure cattle's health and a maximum reduction of pain, suffer and stress due to required practices.

General Guidance

- Life records show the age in which castration is conducted.
- Personnel in charge of castration is trained on how to reduce fear, stress and pain. Farms keep records of such trainings..

LEVEL C

CRITERION 5.15

Hot iron processes and excision are not used for dehorning calves. If calves are older than two months, only tipping of horns is permitted.

Objective Assure cattle's health and a maximum reduction of pain, suffer and stress due to required practices.

General Guidance

- Life records show the age in which dehorning or tipping of horns is conducted.
- Personnel in charge of dehorning is trained on how to reduce fear, stress and pain. Farm keeps records of such trainings.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 5.16

Dairy and double purpose cows are milked regularly.

Objective Minimize the risk of infection and disease on milking cows and ensure food safety.

- General Guidance**
- Farms' records show regular milking of cows.
 - Exceptions apply for:
 - withdrawal periods upon the administration of certain medications and substances, and determined according to the product label or the veterinarian advice, whichever is more stricter.
 - Cows that are under treatment for mastitis, other udder infections or diseases .

LEVEL C

CRITERION 5.17

Milking infrastructure is clean and free of waste. A sanitation protocol for milking equipment and personnel is implemented including:

- a) Utensils and equipment are sterilized or disinfected; and
- b) Hands are washed or disinfected with non-irritating substances before each cow is milked.

Objective Minimize the risk of infection and disease on milking cows and ensure food safety.

- General Guidance**
- Personnel in charge of milking process is trained on how implement the sanitation process. Farm keeps records of such trainings.
 - Cattle does not show any sign of irritation from substances uses to disinfect them or the equipment.

LEVEL C

CRITERION 5.18

Infrastructure for cattle management is clean and safe and provides sufficient and clean bedding, natural light and ventilation, and protection from extreme weather conditions events. All equipment is maintained clean from excrement and in good operating condition. Animal loading and unloading structures ensure animal safety.

Objective Ensure the cattle's welfare and comfort and minimize any risks to the cattle's and human health and safety.

- General Guidance**
- Infrastructure looks clean and pests and diseases vectors are controlled (including but not limited to flies, mice and cockroach).
 - Workers are trained on how to maintain equipment clean.
 - Animal loading and unloading infrastructure does not demand the animal to jump.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 5.19

The farm management and group administrator develop and implement a pasture management plan, including:

- a) Selection of forage species considering agro-ecological conditions, production rates, nutritional value, non-invasiveness, resistance to pests, and climatic variability;
- b) Periodic evaluation of pasture condition and level of weed infestation;
- c) Actions to avoid overgrazing and pasture degradation.

Objective Assure that herd, forage and pasture management is suitable for an optimal cattle production, and that production processes minimize greenhouse gases emissions and negative impacts on soil and ecosystems.

General Guidance

- The management plan includes mechanisms to evaluate the pasture and forage quality and digestibility.
- Farms keep records on the pastures and forage species used.
- Farms document the way stocking rates and rotation cycles are calculated.
- Actions to avoid overgrazing and pasture degradation may include [but are not limited to]:
 - Use of silage
 - Implementation of rotation cycles
 - Adjustment of fertilization plans
 - Establishment of forage banks and other supplementation options.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 5.20

Reproduction periods and activities are documented to reduce inbreeding and improve herd genetics.

Objective Reduce the possibility of genetic conditions and mutations due to inbreeding and to maximize the cattle's genetic adaptation and production potential.

General Guidance

- Reproduction activities are focused on improving herd genetics (desired characteristics according to the farm's production systems).
- Animal life records show reproduction period and activities.
- Farms have a mechanism in place to identify heat on cows. Penis-deviation is not permitted (See Critical Criterion 5.4).



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LEVEL B

CRITERION 5.21



Dead animals are buried or incinerated promptly or other legally permitted mechanisms are applied to eliminate the risk of contamination.

Objective Minimize the risk of infection, spread of disease, and environmental contamination

General Guidance

- Farms records show the mechanisms used to dispose dead animals.
- If animals are buried, the burial sites are identified and do not pose any risk of contamination to water sources and aquatic ecosystems, nor to the health of nearby communities or workers.

LEVEL B

CRITERION 5.22



Urine and manure from cattle stables and enclosures are collected, composted or treated to reduce pathogens and minimize methane emissions. Composted solids are reused as part of the production system

Objective Avoid environmental contamination and minimize methane emissions.

General Guidance

- Manure and urine anaerobic treatment is preferred.
- If urine and manure is reused as part of the production system (e.g. as a fertilizer for forage):
 - Periods between fertilization and feeding are monitored and controlled to avoid contamination;
 - Actions are taken to avoid contamination of soil and water bodies due to lixivates; and
 - Actions are taken to avoid the mixing of detergents and medications into the urine and manure that is applied to land and/or pastures.
- Treatment methods include [but are not limited to]:
 - Biodigestors;
 - Aquatic plant channels and aquaculture systems;
 - Oxidation lagoons;
 - Composting; or
 - Vegetative systems.



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LEVEL B

CRITERION 5.23



Animals are declared fit by trained personnel before any travel. Animals are not contained in the vehicle for more than 24 hours continuously. Except for emergencies and medical treatment, animals with the following conditions are not transported: Sick or severely injured animals, including those with open surgical wounds; females that have given birth less than 48 hours ago; and cows in the last month of pregnancy.

- Objective** Ensure cattle's welfare and a maximum reduction of pain, suffer and stress while being transported.
- General Guidance**
- Applies to transport of animals including: to slaughter, around the farm, between farms or delivery to farm.
 - Personnel trained in safe cattle transport supervises animal transportation and assure that animals are not mistreated.
 - In case animals are injured or distressed as a consequence of transporting, they receive veterinary treatment as soon as possible.
 - In those cases where transportation is sub-contracted, Critical Criterion 1.5 applies.

LEVEL A

CRITERION 5.24

Cattle products sold as certified are from animals that spent at least the last two-thirds of their lives on farms certified with this standard.

- Objective** Ensure the traceability of cattle sold as certified and assure it was raised in farms that comply with Rainforest Alliance Standards.
- General Guidance** It is recommended the creation of an electronic database that allow the information retrieval at any point in supply chain.

LEVEL A

CRITERION 5.25

Chutes, alleys, and other restraining equipment and facilities are designed and built to reduce cattle stress and injury.

- Objective** Ensure the cattle's welfare and comfort and minimize any risks to the cattle's and human health and safety.
- General Guidance**
- All facilities are designed taking into account the average body size and proportions of the cattle race.
 - Facilities are well maintained and do not represent a hazard to workers or cattle (e.g.: pointy ends, broken platforms, steep slopes, etc.).



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LEVEL A

CRITERION 5.26

Cattle's negative impact on aquatic ecosystems is reduced by ensuring that cattle receive water and feed within pasture lots and that there are physical barriers between cattle and aquatic ecosystems. Routes where cattle cross aquatic ecosystems are selected and managed in ways that minimize damage.

- Objective** Prevent contamination and minimize the negative impacts of cattle productions on aquatic ecosystems.
- General Guidance**
- Cattle have limited access to natural water bodies. If animals have access to natural water bodies, farm takes actions to avoid the degradation of such water bodies.
 - Cattles is provided in sufficient quantity preferably by artificial waterers to prevent the animals from accessing natural water bodies.
 - Crossing through aquatic ecosystems is avoided if possible, or controlled if necessary.
 - All visible signs of ecosystem degradation – including such as pollution signs (color, smell), riverbank erosion, alteration of natural wetlands –, are subjected to restoration measures.
 - Best practices include the establishment of crop/physical barriers and the designation of crossing points.

LEVEL A

CRITERION 5.27

Water for cattle complies with Rainforest Alliance safe drinking water parameters.

- Objective** Provide sufficient hydration to cattle with water that does not have acute or chronic negative effects over their health.
- General Guidance**
- Farm have a mechanism in place to assess the water quality.
 - Rainforest Alliance safe drinking water parameters are based on WHO parameters as follows:

Parameter	Value
E. coli or thermo-tolerant coliform bacteria	Not detectable in any 100-ml sample
Chlorine residue or residue from other treatment disinfectants	Maximum 0.5 mg/ L
pH	6.5 to 8.5
Sodium	Maximum 20 mg/ L
Nitrates	Maximum 10 mg/ L as nitrates
Sulphates	Maximum 250 mg/ L
Turbidity ¹	Less than or equal to 5 NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit)



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ANNEX 1: TERMS & DEFINITIONS

2017 Sustainable Agriculture Standard

A

- **Active ingredient:** A pesticide consists of several substances. The active ingredient is the chemical that triggers in the treated organisms (e.g. fungi, insects, and mice) the specific toxic effect. The other substances can assist this effect, directly or indirectly.
- **Aircraft:** Helicopters, planes, drones or other aerodynes that can carry liquids for aerial fumigation.
- **Applicable law:** Includes local, county, province, state or national law and that law which has been integrated into or legally deemed to be superior to national law by a state's signing of an international treaty.
- **Aquatic ecosystems:** Flowing and still water bodies and other wetlands, as further defined within the definition of natural ecosystems.
- **Areas of human activity:** An area within the farm's or group administrator's scope frequented by humans for work, living, travel or education-related reasons, including: packaging plants, processing and storage facilities, workshops, offices, schools, clinics, houses, recreation areas and public or private roads.

B

- **Basic Education:** Basic education for workers' children includes reading, writing and basic mathematics (primary education).

C

- **Cattle:** Domesticated animals of the family Bovidae, including the species *Bos taurus* and *B. taurus indicus* (zebu), or crosses of these two, as well as buffalo breeds (*Bubalus bubalis*), that are raised for meat or dairy production.
- **Child:** Person under the age of 18 (ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 No. 182).
- **Child labor:** Child engaged in hazardous child labor, or working with an age of less than 15 years on commercial farms or group administrators. Non-hazardous activities of young workers on smallholder farms are excluded.
- **Climate change:** Change in the state of the climate that can be identified by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer (Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).
- **Cloned animals:** Individuals born from the same cell, or with absolutely homogeneous cell lineage.
- **Colostrum:** Milk produced by cows during the first days after calving containing carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, minerals, and proteins (antibodies) that help fight disease-causing agents.



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- Competent professional: An individual with demonstrated professional expertise, skills, experience and credentials in a specific subject area.
- Community: People or group of people living in the same place or region affected or impacted by the existence or operation of a farm or group of farms. Rural workers, farm inhabitants, neighbors of farms, traditional and indigenous people¹, and inhabitants of villages or cities are considered communities affected by a certain farm or group of farms.
- Conserved (also Conserve): Natural ecosystems may be conserved through any combination of strict preservation², restoration or sustainable management³. A natural ecosystem is conserved if it has been protected against direct or indirect human degradation.
 1. People native to a particular place, often ethnic minorities who have been marginalized as their historical territories have become part of a state.
 2. Land that is set aside by the farm or group to exclude human activities and facilitate natural ecological succession processes.
 3. Economic activities that do not significantly alter the long-term composition, structure, or function of natural ecosystems, including harvest of non-endangered species or their parts in a manner and quantity that does not exceed the regenerative capacity of such species; sustainable livestock grazing under traditional or modern non-enclosed grazing systems within woodlands, bushlands, savannas, or other non-forested ecosystems provided that animal stocking densities and management practices do not degrade the ecosystem by significantly affecting species composition, provoking soil erosion, or causing other negative impacts; sustainable fishing or harvest of other aquatic species; or use of natural ecosystems for non-consumptive purposes such as recreation, education, or tourism.

D

- Degradation (also degrade): Degradation of a natural ecosystem or protected area, resulting in negative impacts, by any of the following:
 - a) Mining or soil removal;
 - b) Dumping solid waste or untreated wastewater;
 - c) Intentional introduction of invasive plant species;
 - d) Harvest of fish, wildlife, or plants in a manner or quantity that exceeds the regenerative capacity of such species;
 - e) Cattle grazing except as specified under sustainable management;
 - f) Construction of impoundments, stream channelization, adding fill, or changing the depth or direction of flow of a water body;
 - g) Drainage or drying of water bodies or wetlands through excessive water withdrawal or other means;
 - h) Pollution of water bodies or wetlands that significantly alters their chemistry or species composition; or
 - i) Application of herbicides, pesticides, or fire, except for the control of invasive plant species or restoration purposes, and then only if governed by a plan developed by a competent professional..

For the purposes of this standard, the following items **are not considered disturbances** to natural ecosystems:

- a) Activities defined as restoration or sustainable management; unintentional colonization by invasive species; or ecosystem alterations caused by force majeure events, including war, riots, crimes, or natural phenomena such as hurricanes, floods, earthquake, and volcanic eruptions.
- b) Other situations defined in the *2017 Certification Rules*.



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- **Destruction (also destroyed):** Conversion of a natural ecosystem (or portion thereof) to a different land use, or other deliberate activity that significantly alters a natural ecosystem’s composition, structure, or function, including:
 - a) Conversion to agricultural fields, pastures, tree plantations, or any other land use;
 - b) Large-scale logging or other vegetation harvest that permanently, or over the long term, reduces the ecosystem’s aboveground biomass by 75% or more;
 - c) Development of buildings or infrastructure, except for small-scale construction for sustainably managed eco-tourism, education, or research purpose;
 - d) Construction of new permanent dams and draining or drying of aquatic ecosystems.

Additional details included in the *2017 Certification Rules* apply.

- **Discrimination:** Distinction, exclusion or preference to invalidate or harm equality of opportunity or treatment in employment including:
 - a) Race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender, caste, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin;
 - b) Nationality or migratory status;
 - c) Civil status;
 - d) Medical condition;
 - e) Family condition, including pregnant women and parents with children, or any other protected status as included in applicable laws;
 - f) Worker organization membership or being an organizer;
 - g) Having filed complaints within the complaints or grievance mechanisms;
 - h) Unequal opportunities for gender when appointing management positions;
 - i) Political, religious, social, sexual or cultural opinions and convictions, views or affiliations of workers.
- **Dispossession:** Action of armed groups, its representatives or related opportunists to achieve the sale, delivery or evacuation of a property by the legitimate owner, holder or occupant taking advantage of the victims’ vulnerability. Examples of dispossession are when owners are obliged to sell the property at low prices given the circumstances of social violence or pressure, or when corrupt government officials participate in the property’s transfer through the falsification of documents or signatures.

E

- **Emasculation:** Removal of the testicles (castration) of a male by surgical methods, Burdizzo clamp, elastrator or other method.
- **Endangered:** Species of plants, animals, and fungi designated as threatened or endangered by national laws or classification systems or listed as endangered or critically endangered by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ and/or listed in Appendices I, II, or III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).



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- Euthanasia: Practice to end a life with no or minimal pain in order to avoid prolonged suffering.
- Eutrophication: A form of water pollution and occurs when excessive nutrients stemming from fertilizers runoff from the land into aquatic ecosystems. This encourages dense growth of algae (algal bloom) and other aquatic plants and may result in the death of animal life from lack of oxygen.

F

- Farm: Rainforest Alliance farm audits encompass all agriculture and cattle production activities carried out in this defined area. A farm may be composed of several neighboring or geographically separate units of land within one country, provided that they are under a common management body.
- Farm infrastructure: Farm roads, irrigation infrastructure (including pumping facilities, channels, ponds, reservoirs, dams, and impoundments), permanently installed machinery, and facilities for washing, processing, or packing.
- Farm management: Farm Management refers to the representative of the Farm Manager or Administrator that can implement all criteria that require a high level of technical knowledge and planning skill. Compliance with criteria is assured by the Farm Management or its technical representative and applies both to single certificate farms or multi-sites under one owner.
- Fertilizer: Natural materials and synthetic compounds, including nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium compounds, spread on or worked into soil or on leaves to increase their capacity to support plant growth.
- Forced abandonment: Situation in which the victim is obliged to leave its property to protect its family's life, freedom and integrity and results in the impossibility to use the property.
- Forced, compulsory or slave labor: All work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered herself or himself voluntarily. This includes:
 - a) Forcing workers to work or stay at the workplace;
 - b) Control of worker access to food, water, toilets, canteens, medical care or health clinics as a means to discipline or reward workers;
 - c) Withholding workers' salaries, documents, IDs, benefits, property or any rights acquired in the course or due to the status of work or stipulated by law;
 - d) Restricting the workers' freedom of movement to and from their employer-provided housing, unless such movement would compromise the residents' security;
 - e) Bonded labor that forces workers to work due to debt owed to a recruiter, farm or group administrator representative;
 - f) Labor by prisoners or those working under the regimen of imprisonment, even when permitted by local regulations or other laws.

(Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour (Entry into force: 1 May 1932); Adoption: Geneva, 14th ILC session (28 June 1930).



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- Forest: See definition under natural ecosystems.
- Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC): The right of indigenous peoples and other local communities to make free and informed choices about the use or development of their lands and resources. FPIC is implemented through a participatory process involving all affected groups that is carried out prior to the finalization or implementation of any development plans. An FPIC process ensures that communities are not coerced or intimidated; that decisions are reached through communities' own chosen institutions or representatives; that communities' consent is sought and freely given prior to the authorization or start of any activities; that communities have full information about the scope of any proposed development and its likely impacts on their lands, livelihoods and environment; and that ultimately their choices to give or withhold consent are respected..

G

- Genetically Modified Organism (GMO): An organism whose genetic material has been altered using genetic engineering techniques, i.e., the direct manipulation of an organism's genome using biotechnology or genome-editing techniques.
 - Greywater: Wastewater generated from housing or other infrastructure that is free from fecal contamination from toilets. Sources of greywater include sinks, showers, baths, clothes washing or dish washing. Wastewater from agricultural processing operations is not considered greywater for the purpose of this standard.
 - Group administrator: The entity that signs the certification agreement with the Rainforest Alliance authorized certification body and takes responsibility for the development and implementation of the group's internal management system⁴ and all member farms' management systems. The group administrator assures member farms' compliance with the Rainforest Alliance standard.
 - Group member: The owner or responsible person of one or more member farms of a producer group.
4. A documented set of procedures and processes that a group implements to comply with Rainforest Alliance standard and policy requirements. The existence of an Internal Management System allows the Rainforest Alliance authorized certification body to delegate inspection of all individual group members to the group administrator's internal inspectors.

H

- Hazardous materials: Used lead acid batteries, asbestos, energy saving mercury lamps, E-waste, electric transformers with POPs (PCBs), medical equipment, radioactive material, pesticides, expired human and veterinary medicines, used oils, bio infectious waste, disinfectants, animal parts and carcasses, and particles (ashes, dust, pesticide drifts).
- Health care: Access to medical attention for basic and severe conditions, transport to state or other specialized facilities.

- High Conservation Value (HCV) area: HCVs are biological, ecological, social or cultural values which are considered outstandingly significant or critically important, at the national, regional or global level:
 - HCV1: Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels;
 - HCV2: Intact forest landscapes and large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance;
 - HCV3: Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia;
 - HCV4: Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes;
 - HCV5: Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or indigenous peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.), identified through engagement with these communities or indigenous peoples; or
 - HCV6: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or indigenous peoples.
- Hot iron process: Process to impede the growth of the bovine's horn's button (extremity that finishes in round tip) when beginning to develop. The hot iron dehorning is carried out in order to avoid animals injuring each other and to facilitate herd management.
- Hunting (also hunted): The act of pursuing or killing a terrestrial wild animal by means of any weapon, trap, poison or use of dogs.

I

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM): The careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human health and the environment. IPM emphasizes the growth of healthy crops and cattle with the least possible disruption to agro-ecosystems and encourages natural pest control mechanisms⁵. Application of pesticides is based on documented thresholds for disease or pest infestations.

5. FAO definition: <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/pests/ipm/en/>

- **Internal Inspection:** First or second party audit conducted by a person designated by a group administrator that checks compliance of member farms with applicable Rainforest Alliance standards.
- **Invasive species:** A plant or vertebrate species or subspecies that is not native to a given place, and whose presence or introduction in that place causes or is likely to cause economic harm, environmental harm, or harm to human health. For the purpose of this standard, invasive species are the ones referenced by IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) as 100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species (http://www.issg.org/worst100_species.html) and crop or cattle species are not considered invasive species.
- **Irritating substance:** Substance that can cause physical discomfort or pain.

L

- **Labor agreement:** Written contract or verbal agreement between the farm management or group administrator and the worker that covers: job description, working hours, pay rate, overtime regulation, benefits and deductions, annual paid vacation leave, protection from loss of pay in the case of illness, disability or accident, and the notice period for contract termination.
- **Land conversion:** A change in land use from non-cropped areas to annual or perennial crop agriculture or cattle production areas. A change in land use from one crop to another crop, from pasture to cropland, or from cropland to pasture is not considered a land conversion unless it also entails land consolidation.
- **Large native tree:** A living or dead native tree taller than 15 meters and wider than 60 cm diameter at breast height.
- **Live fence:** Line of closely spaced shrubs and trees planted in such a manner as to separate crop and pasture areas or to define property boundaries supporting barb or plain wire fencing. Live fences cannot consist of dead fence posts only. Also known as a “hedge” in some parts of the world.
- **Living wage:** Remuneration received for a standard 48 hours workweek by a worker in a particular place sufficient to afford a decent standard of living for the worker and her or his family. Elements of a decent standard of living include food, housing, education, health care, water, transport, clothing, other essential needs including provision for emergencies and unexpected events (Global Living Wage Coalition, www.globallivingwage.org).
- **Living wage benchmark:** The living wage level defined for a specific country or region based on work of the Global Living Wage Coalition (www.globallivingwage.org).

M

- **Member farm:** Farm owned or managed by a group member that signed or marked an agreement with the group administrator.
- **Multiple sites under one owner:** A physical person or legal entity that owns or holds more than one farm under the same management system.

N

- **Native species:** Species, subspecies, or lower taxon occurring within its current natural range, i.e., the range it occupies without direct or indirect introduction or care by humans.
- **Natural ecosystems:** Ecosystems that resemble – in terms of species composition, structure, and function – those that are or would be found in a given area in the absence of significant human management impacts, including:

1. Aquatic Ecosystems:

- All naturally occurring streams, rivers, pools, ponds, lakes, and lagoons, as well as seasonal streams that are at least one meter wide, and flow continuously for at least two months in most years or flow intermittently. Streams and rivers that have been altered by sedimentation, polluted runoff, bank erosion, thermal pollution, or impoundments less than one meter high are still Rainforest Alliance natural ecosystems. Artificial pools, water treatment lagoons, and irrigation ponds, are not considered Rainforest Alliance natural ecosystems, unless: the water body was constructed to provide fish or wildlife habitat
- All naturally occurring wetlands, where the natural hydrological conditions result in either or both of the following conditions:
 - Soils are waterlogged for the majority of the year;
 - The land is periodically or permanently inundated by shallow water, including: floodplains; wet areas bordering ponds, streams, or the ocean.

For the purposes of this standard, the following types of aquatic ecosystems are not considered Rainforest Alliance natural ecosystems: Areas that have been made seasonally or perennially wet due to human activity (such as drainage ditches, irrigation ponds, reservoirs, effluent holding ponds, aquaculture ponds, rice paddies, or gravel pits), unless the wetland was created by humans to provide wetland habitat

2. Forests:

Forests include both humid forests (rainforest) and drier forests; lowland, montane, and cloud forests; and forests consisting of any combination of broadleaf, needle leaf, evergreen, and deciduous vegetation. Forests are defined as tree-covered areas that:

- a) Are not occupied by agriculture or other specific non-forest land uses; and,
- b) Consist primarily of native plant species; and,
- c) Contain a vegetation structure that generally resembles that of a natural forest of the same age in the same area; or
- d) Are classified as High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests according to the HCS approach (www.highcarbonstock.org) or, in regions where HCS parameters have not yet been defined, have been regenerating for at least 10 years with minimal human disturbance.

For the purposes of this standard, the following types of tree-covered areas are not considered Rainforest Alliance natural ecosystems:

- Forestry or fruit tree plantations;
- Tree-covered areas that are managed as diversified food production systems, including traditional and modern management systems such as home gardens, agroforestry systems, and mixed tree-livestock systems; or
- Areas that are managed as long-rotation swidden (shifting cultivation) systems under traditional, indigenous people, community, or smallholder land-use systems (even if they otherwise meet the definitions of natural ecosystems) and fallow lands for soil fertility recovery purposes.

3. Other native terrestrial ecosystems:

- a) Woodlands, shrublands, grasslands, savannahs, peatlands and paramo that have not been used for cultivation or enclosed grazing for at least the past five years.
 - b) Localized areas of non-forest natural vegetation within forest biomes that are not covered in any of the preceding categories, regardless of their size.
- Natural pest control substances: Chemicals with non-toxic modes of action such as insect pheromones, and insect attractants derived from plant extracts; mineral substances that irritate or cause mechanical disruption to pests; and microbial pesticides, including bacteria, fungi, viruses and protozoa.

P

- Pasture: A type of grazing unit enclosed and separated from other areas by fencing or other barriers and devoted to the production of forage.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE): Equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses. These injuries and illnesses may result from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards. Personal protective equipment may include items such as gloves, safety glasses and shoes, earplugs or muffs, hard hats, respirators, or coveralls, vests and full body suits.



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- Pest: An organism that is detrimental to humans or their crops, cattle, or property, typically by causing economic damage.
- Pesticide: Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying or controlling any pest, including vectors of human or animal disease, and including unwanted species of plants or animals causing harm during or otherwise interfering with the production, processing, storage, transport or marketing of food, agricultural commodities, wood and wood products or animal feedstuffs, and also include substances administered to animals for the control of insects, arachnids or other pests on their bodies. The term includes substances intended for use as a plant growth regulator, defoliant, desiccant or agent for thinning fruit or preventing the premature fall of fruit. Pesticides are also used for application on crops either before or after harvest to protect the commodity from deterioration during storage and transport.
- Plan: A document or a set of documents, including a diagram or a list of intended actions, used to define and achieve an objective or goal. For the purposes of this standard, a plan contains objectives, quantitative targets and parameters, time-bound management actions, resources and responsible personnel.
- Product quality: The product's ability – as defined by the farm or group administrator - to fulfill the expectations and needs of the end user, considering food safety parameters and pesticide residues, such as conformance with Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and tolerances established by the importing country..
- Production plot: A contiguous area of a farm dedicated to the production of crops or livestock of any sort.
- Productivity: A measure of production efficiency based on the ratio of production output to production inputs of land, capital, water, other natural resources, labor, energy, or other materials.
- Protected area: An area of land declared or designated by local authorities as protected because of its recognized natural, ecological and/or cultural values to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem assets and cultural values. Examples include national parks, wildlife refuges, biologic, forestry or private reserves, and areas within UNESCO Biosphere reserves or World Heritage Sites.

R

- Remuneration: Cash wage plus in-kind benefits.
- Restoration: Assisting the recovery of natural ecosystems that previously experienced destruction or degradation. Restoration may include activities such as planting of native species, removal of non-native species, and active or passive facilitation of natural ecological succession.

- **Restricted entry interval (REI):** Minimum amount of time that shall pass between pesticide application to an area or crop and the moment that people can enter that area without personal protective equipment.
- **Risk to the woman's, fetus's and infant's health:** The following activities pose risks to the woman's, fetus's or infant's health: manual handling of loads; activities subject to shocks, vibrations or movement; work environment exposed to extremes of heat or cold or to hazardous materials.

S

- **Rainforest Alliance canopy cover and species diversity parameters:** Conformance with minimum canopy cover (% total aerial coverage of tree canopies excluding crop trees) is based on estimations during the time of the year when tree foliage is most dense. Rainforest Alliance minimum regional canopy cover and tree species diversity parameters per crop are:

Shade Tolerant Crop	Regions	Minimum canopy cover (%)	Minimum No. of native tree species per hectare
Coffee	Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean	40	12
Cocoa	West Africa, East Africa, South East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean	30	5
Clove, Vanilla	East Africa	40	12
Pepper	South East Asia	20	12

- **Rainforest Alliance ESIA parameters:** Parameters that require an independent ESIA if exceeded: 1. Land conversion of 500 hectares; or 2. New water withdrawal of 500,000 m³/year for irrigation or processing; or 3. new or additional industrial wastewater discharge of 10,000 m³/year. The ESIA addresses the following topics: biodiversity; High Conservation Value areas; water quantity and quality; soils; air; waste; employment and labor rights; land and natural resource use rights, tenure and conflicts; climate change; and other possible impacts on local communities.

- **Rainforest Alliance industrial wastewater parameters:**

Water Quality Parameter	Value
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (DBO ₅)	Less than 150 mg/ l
Total suspended solids	Less than 50 mg/ l
Grease and oils	
pH	Between 5.5 – 9.0

- **Rainforest Alliance industrial wastewater parameters for irrigation:**

Water Quality Parameter	Value
Intestinal nematodes (arithmetic mean No. of eggs per liter)	≤ 1
Fecal coli forms (geometric mean No. per 100 ml)	≤ 1000

- Rainforest Alliance non-application zones: The distance in meters indicates the width of the non-application zone between pesticide applied crops and areas of human activity, or aquatic and terrestrial natural ecosystems:
 - 1) 5 meters, if applied by mechanical, hand-assisted and targeted application methods, such as for example knapsack sprayers, banding, baiting, specific granule placement, soil or plant injection, seed treatments and weed wiping;
 - 2) 10 meters, if applied by broadcast or pressurized spray application methods, such as for example motorized sprayers or spray booms, air blast sprayers, foggers (Ultra Low Volume fogging machines) depending on the equipment's technical specifications.
- Rainforest Alliance Parameters for cattle water: Drinkable and safe water is of a pH between 5.5 to 8.5 and contains less than 3,500 ppm (mg/L) of Total Dissolved Solids. Coliforms counts are below 50 per millimeter of water; chloride content is of less than 1,600 mg/l for dairy cattle and less than 4,000 mg/l for beef cattle; and temperature is below 30°C.
- Rainforest Alliance parameters for vegetative barriers:
 1. For ground-based applications, barriers are as high as the crop height or the height of the equipment's application valves over the ground, whichever is higher;
 2. For aerial fumigations, barriers are at least as high as the crop;
 3. Barriers are composed of plants that maintain their foliage all year, but which are permeable to airflow, allowing the barrier to capture pesticide drops;
 4. Preference is given to native species.
- Rainforest Alliance requirements for aerial fumigation:
 - 1) Aerial fumigations are recommended by a competent professional;
 - 2) Spray drift next to natural ecosystems and areas of human activity is reduced through non-application zones or vegetative barriers:
 - a) Non-application zones are at minimum:
 - i. 30 meter wide next to public roads and housing areas if application is parallel to the non-application zone with half wing applications (outer boom off) to minimize drift to high risk areas; and
 - ii. In the case of rivers, a 15 m non-application zone for each river bank.
 - 3) Aircraft
 - a) Are equipped with Geographic Positioning Systems (GPS) with automatic shut-off valves connected to the GPS system;
 - b) The flight altitude is maximum 5 meter above the crop canopy;
 - c) The length of the application boom is at maximum 80% of the aircraft's wingspan;
 - 4) Nozzle type and number of drops are calibrated every six months and the application doses are calibrated before each application;
 - 5) Hoses, nozzles, valves, GPS system and automatic flow meter are checked before and after each flight;



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- 6) Weather conditions are:
 - a) Wind speeds are less than 10 kilometers per hour (km/h)
 - b) Inversion conditions are avoided;
 - c) Maximum temperature is 29 °C.
 - 7) Each aerial fumigation is documented with an operational report, including::
 - a) Location of the property;
 - b) Type of service performed;
 - c) Treated crop and area (in hectare) with sketch of the area indicating its boundaries, barriers, roads, power grids, watery, buildings, magnetic north and geographic coordinates (at least one point);
 - d) Pesticide applications, including all receipts for purchases, label names of products applied, active ingredient (AI) name, and concentration (volume per liter, mass per kg, or %AI) in each product, quantity of each formulated product applied, and the application dates, location, and land area over which each product is applied, type of application equipment, name of pesticide handlers;
 - e) Flight and application parameters: height of the flight, width of the effective deposition range, temperature range, wind speed and direction; model, prefix, type and angle of used aircraft;
 - f) Date and time of application (beginning and end of application)
 - g) Direction of application ranges (shots); location of the flight track through geo-referencing, specifying whether the application was performed with the Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS).
- Rainforest Alliance restoration parameters: Restoration parameters for adjacent zones of aquatic ecosystems are:
 - 1) Remnant or restored vegetation is primarily native, e.g. agroforestry systems that comply with Rainforest Alliance canopy cover and species diversity parameters;
 - 2) Minimum widths of restored areas adjacent to aquatic ecosystems (water course width is defined as the width of the normal flow during the rainy season but not during flood conditions) are:
 - a) 5 m horizontal width along both sides of water courses less than 5 meters wide;
 - b) 8 m horizontal width along both sides of water courses 5-10 meters wide, and around springs, wetlands, and other water bodies;
 - c) 15 m horizontal width along both sides of rivers wider than 10 m.
 - Rainforest Alliance rodenticide risk management requirements:
 - Rodenticide traps are only used, if rodent monitoring demonstrates that mechanic control methods are not effective;
 - Only formulated rodenticide baited traps are used.
 - Signs of rodent activity (droppings, tracks, gnaw marks, burrows) are monitored and the results recorded. Traps are inspected daily and bait stations and installations weekly.



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- Bait stations are tamper-resistant, anchored, and constructed in such a manner and size as to permit only the entrance of rodents;
 - Food sources attracting rodents and debris are eliminated;
 - Rodent carcasses are handled with gloves and buried in locations that do not pose risk to human health or water contamination;
 - Bait stations are removed and the amount of stations diminished when there are no longer signs of rodent feeding or there is evidence of use by non-target wildlife.
- Rainforest Alliance safe drinking water parameters: Rainforest Alliance safe drinking water parameters are based on WHO parameters as follows:

Parameter	Value
E. coli or thermo-tolerant coliform bacteria	Not detectable in any 100- ml sample
Chlorine residue or residue from other treatment disinfectants	Maximum 0.5 mg/ L
pH	6.5 to 8.5
Sodium	Maximum 20 mg/ L
Nitrates	Maximum 10 mg/ L as nitrates
Sulphates	Maximum 250 mg/ L
Turbidity ¹	Less than or equal to 5 NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit)

¹ *The lack of transparency of a liquid due to the presence of particles in suspension. The measurement of turbidity is a key test of water quality. With more solids in suspension in a liquid, the liquid will appear dirtier and its turbidity will be higher.*

- Service provider: Organizations, businesses, individuals or their subcontractors who carry out activities on behalf of the farm or group administrator, whether these activities take place on or off the subject farm(s), such as hiring of workers on the farm, pesticide application, waste treatment or disposal, transport of products or workers, and providing worker housing in the name of the farm or group administrator. Service providers include those providers furnishing the farm or group administrator with fuelwood, timber, or any product originating from local natural ecosystems for industrial processes. However, providers of other types of goods or inputs to the farm are not considered service providers.
- Sewage: Wastewater and waste solids that contain fecal matter. Any wastewater stream that includes discharge from toilets is considered as sewage, whether or not it is mixed with greywater.
- Shade-tolerant crop: A crop species that is adapted to live under full or partial shade. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, cardamom, cinnamon, cocoa, coffee, macadamia, nutmeg, and vanilla.
- Smallholder: A producer who primarily relies on family or household labor, or reciprocal workforce exchange with other members of the community.
- Spray drift: The quantity of applied product -representing an active ingredient of a pesticide - which is deflected from the treated area by the action of air currents during the application process.

T

- **Temporary worker:** Employees who are not permanently hired but contracted just for limited periods of time. The relevant labor contract is of limited or unspecified duration with no guarantee of continuation.

Workers that conduct short-term harvest work on a farm and voluntarily move to other farms are not subject to contracts between the farm or group administrator and the temporary worker.

The designation of "short-term workers" may not be made for the purpose of avoiding legal minimum wage or legal benefit schemes that include these workers.

W

- **Waste:** Waste is an unwanted or undesired material or substance. It is also referred to as rubbish, trash, garbage, or junk depending upon the type of material and the regional terminology. Most waste is comprised of paper, plastic, metals, glass, food waste, organic material, feces and wood. Includes hazardous materials. It covers domestic or industrial waste, rejected products, construction debris or rubble, soil and stones from excavations, rubbish and soil from cleaning or preparing land.
- **Wastewater from processing operations:** Water that has been adversely affected in quality by industrial processes and originating from processing operations such as mills (such as coffee wet mills, palm oil mills, sugar cane mills), washing operations (such as fruit or vegetable or milking facilities), packing plants or (such as juice or puree factories).
- **Water contamination risk:** Alteration of water treatment systems and associated pipes, or natural catastrophes such as earthquakes, tremors or landslides.
- **Water for cattle:** Drinkable and safe water is of a pH between 5.5 to 8.5 and contains less than 3,500 ppm (mg/L) of Total Dissolved Solids. Coliforms counts are below 50 per millimeter of water; chloride content is of less than 1,600 mg/l for dairy cattle and less than 4,000 mg/l for beef cattle; and temperature is below 30°C.
- **Wildlife:** All terrestrial non-domesticated vertebrates.
- **Worker:** Any person who works on a farm or for a group administrator and is paid for his or her work. Encompasses all types of workers, including permanent, temporary, documented, undocumented, migrant, and transitory, and also persons temporarily absent from a job or enterprise at which they recently worked for illness, parental leave, holiday, training, or industrial dispute.
- **Worker organization:** A voluntary association of workers recognized and duly registered by the government, independent from the farm management or group administrator and organized for occupational purposes with the aim of furthering and defending the interests and labor rights of workers or collective bargaining. (Adapted from *ILO Convention 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize*).



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- Work harmful to children: Work that may harm children’s health, safety or morals, including:
 - a) Handling of pesticides, hazardous substances or residues;
 - b) Operating, assisting to operate, or cleaning power machinery or tools;
 - c) Activities requiring physical exertion beyond the child’s safe capacity, such as heavy lifting of loads greater than 20% of a minor’s body weight;
 - d) Work on steep slopes of more than 50%, near cliffs or drop-offs, or on roofs or ladders;
 - e) Work in storage areas, silos and construction sites; and
 - f) Night work.

Y

- Young worker: The minimum age of a young worker shall not be less than 15 years. For the purposes of this standard the term refers to workers between the ages of 15 and 17 years.
(ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Geneva, 58th ILC session)

ANNEX 2: COMPENSATION FOR ANNOUNCED AND UNANNOUNCED MINOR DESTRUCTION OF NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS

2017 Sustainable Agriculture Standard

Compensation for announced minor destruction of natural ecosystems

Section 11 (2017 Certification Rules)

- a. If destruction of natural ecosystems - but never for HCV areas - up to 1% of the total certified land area is planned by a certified farm manager or group administrator, it will not be a cause for certificate cancellation provided that the responsible CB was informed beforehand and authorized this minor destruction under the following conditions:
 - i. Destruction of natural ecosystems will take place only for the reason of installing new farm infrastructure or repairing previously existing farm infrastructure (roads, irrigation infrastructure, including pumping facilities, channels, ponds, reservoirs, dams, and impoundments), permanently installed machinery, and facilities for washing, processing, or packing) or for smallholder farms for the purpose of planting food crops;
 - ii. Applicable law is complied with.

Compensation for unannounced minor destruction of natural ecosystems

Section 12.1 (2017 Certification Rules)

- a. Minor destruction of natural ecosystems - but never for HCV areas - that have inadvertently been conducted by a certified farm manager or member farm of a certified group administrator or certified group administrator is permitted only under the following conditions:
 - i. The destruction event is the first one during the organization's SAN/RA certification history;
 - ii. The converted area is located outside of HCV areas, protected areas, or land that is illegal to convert;
 - iii. A plan with objectives, quantitative targets and parameters, time-bound management actions, resources and responsible personnel for the required restoration is prepared by an ecological restoration specialist and submitted for approval to the Rainforest Alliance within three months of the date of destruction, including the following requirements:
 - A. The destruction is mitigated through restoration in the or close to the converted area or by setting-aside for conservation at least a 1:1 ratio of ecologically comparable areas;
 - B. The converted natural ecosystem area is taken out of agricultural production and designated with the aim to restore the area to its former natural condition;
 - C. On larger farms, destruction of natural ecosystems of up to 2% of the farm area or 50 hectares (whichever is less) is only permitted if such destruction is compensated by at least a 1:1 ratio of ecologically comparable areas, as specified in a time-bound plan prepared by a qualified professional and approved by the Rainforest Alliance or its representative;
 - D. Destruction of up to 10% of the farm area or 1 hectare (whichever is less) is permitted without the need for compensation. In the case of smallholder groups, these thresholds apply at the level of each member farm.

ANNEX 3: CHILD LABOR REMEDIATION

2017 Sustainable Agriculture Standard

Child labor remediation

Section 12.2 (2017 Certification Rules)

- a. The farm management or group administrator that removed a child laborer⁵ from his or her job after having received a non-conformity for critical criterion 4.6 of the 2017 Standard shall prove to the CB that it conducted the following remedial actions for the child and his or her family:
 - i. Timely access to medical services;
 - ii. Timely access to psychological and rehabilitative services, as indicated by the child’s condition;
 - iii. Facilitation of the child’s entrance and integration into local school until the legally permitted school-leaving age; and
 - iv. Hiring of the child’s immediate or extended family member, if available. If no such family member is available for hiring, the farm management or group administrator pays the child’s family a wage support no less than the removed child’s wages until the child reaches the legal school-leaving age or age 15, whichever is higher.